

Foreword

Various sources show a total of forty-one unique hotels existed in Starke County from the earliest beginnings up through the 1920's. Of those forty-one hotels, many operated under several names to the fancy of the current owner.

In addition, there were at least two hunting and fishing clubs that offered private accommodations to members.

With the exception of the Bass Lake area, hotels were a necessary compliment to the expansion of railroads through Starke County. Local residents had no need for such accommodations, but traveling workers and business people needed places to take a hot bath, eat and stay overnight.

Many of the county's earliest hotels date back to the building of the various railroads through Hamlet, North Judson, Knox and San Pierre.

Facilities would have been limited in the early hotels of the 1870's and 1880's. The Fitz and Fay Hotels in Knox, which were built in 1895, may have been the county's first hotels with indoor plumbing.

Sometimes long term single roomers also saw the benefit of staying in a hotel as opposed to the rigors of home ownership. The hotels of yesterday were more like the bed & breakfast establishments of today.

Toward the end of the last century, the more common person was finally able to take vacations and holidays. Soon Bass Lake became a haven for tourists and vacationers from the hot and dusty cities. Often times a Chicago businessman would send his wife and family out to the lake for a month at a time.

The advent of post cards at that time, as well as advertisements, has allowed us to document almost all of our early hotels on the following pages.

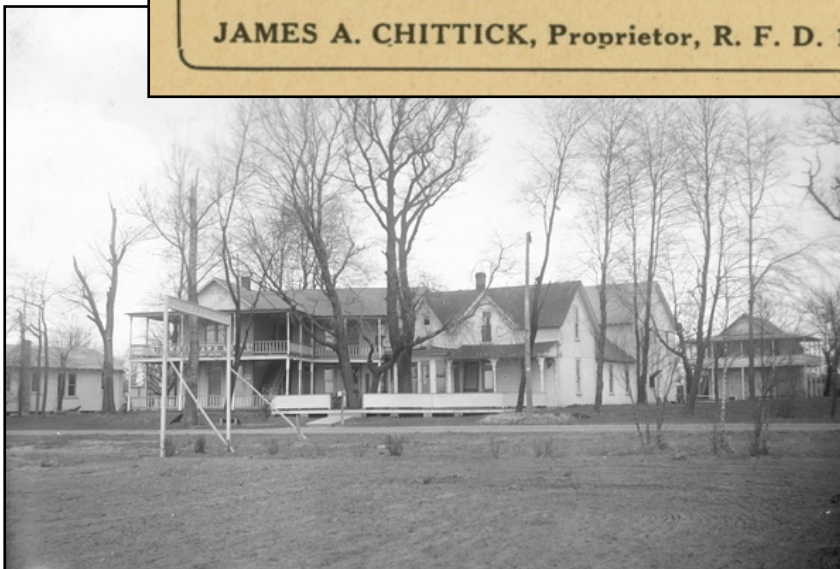
Compiled by Marvin Allen, Starke County Historical Society

Early Hotels of Starke County, Indiana

Bass Lake Area



The **Chittick Hotel** was built in 1890 at the north end of the lake on the northwest corner of what is now SR 210 & 625 E. J.A. Chittick was the proprietor.



Later sometime in the 1920's it became the **Hotel Woodlawn** and was one of only three hotels still operating at the lake in 1950. Later still it became a bakery.

The **Bestview Hotel** was built at the north end of the lake just east of Boa Shores. The **Shore Room** is now located there.



Best View Hotel

Bass Lake

W. H. Emig, Proprietor

\$1.25 per day

R. F. D. No. 3, Knox, Indiana.

The Best View hosted the Beagle Dog Show several times in the 1930's.

The BEST VIEW HOTEL offers you an ideal summer outing at a reasonable rate. Cool rooms, good beds, running water and indoor toilets, screened porches and electric lights. Good bathing, boating, fishing, tennis, croquet, and other recreational features.

CHARLES HOYSGAARD, Proprietor
R. F. D. No. 1, Phone 1072, Knox, Indiana

The Best View was one of three lake hotels still operating in 1950.

THE LARIMER HOTEL.

Is a building 56x110 feet, double veranda, 10 feet in width, making 512 feet of veranda, containing 45 rooms, and has three fronts on the lake. Every room in the building is a front room. Forty-seven Cedar Point lots have been sold, with contracts with purchasers to erect cottages thereon.

The Peru Hunting and Fishing Club has erected a fine club house near the hotel. The club has a membership of 73. Other club houses will soon be erected on Cedar Point.

Lots are selling at \$100.00 to \$200.00 each. Make your purchase soon before they advance in price. Address,

JOSEPH H. LARIMER,
CLERK MIAMI CIRCUIT COURT,
PERU, INDIANA.

For Rates at Hotel Address,

WM. H. ENGLISH, Proprietor,

BASS LAKE, INDIANA.

Bass Lake Indiana

Come to Bass Lake to
spend your Summer
Vacation. Bathing
and Boating.

BEAUTIFUL LAKE
FIVE MILES LONG
FINELY WOODED

The Brabrook Hotel

Has Fifty Rooms; Club House; Nice Grounds, all of which are kept in good order.

RATES: \$1.50 and \$2.00 by the day; \$8.00 to \$12.00 by the week.

CUISINE FIRST-CLASS.

**ADDRESS W. F. BRABROOK,
R. F. D. 1, KNOX, INDIANA**

Brabrook Hotel, Bass Lake, Ind.



The **Larimer Hotel** was the first hotel built at Bass Lake. It was built by Joseph H. Larimer in 1887 at Cedar Point. Wm H. English was the first proprietor.

Later it became the **Brabrook Hotel** but burned down in 1913.

Hotel Taggart was built on the west side of the road at Cedar Point. It was associated with the **Blue Dog Dance Pavilion**.



THE HOTEL TAGGART

The Hotel Taggart has an established reputation, that is known all over the Middle West. The old time hospitality that made the Hotel Taggart famous 25 years ago, is still our greatest pride. Our old fashioned American cooking, our famous chicken dinners, and country ham, eggs, and hot biscuits are still waiting for you every morning for breakfast.

Hotel Taggart has hot and cold running water in rooms, private baths, electric lights, and all cool sleeping rooms overlooking the Lake, a fine bathing beach, horse back riding, and one of the finest dance floors and orchestras of any resort in these parts. Small or large cottages, furnished, rented by the season, month or week. Reasonable rents. The Hotel is supplied with five Mineral Wells.

We invite you to BASS LAKE and to HOTEL TAGGART to woo back that lost appetite. Write for rates.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Bogan, Proprietors and Managers, Knox, Ind.

**TAGGART'S
BALL ROOM**
BASS LAKE
Sat. & Sun. June 22-23
Adm. 40c Per Couple
This Includes Dancing

- DANCING -
At **BLUE DOG** Bass Lake
Wednesday Nite, 5c A Dance
Thursday Nites, Prize Waltz--Cash Prizes
Johnny Ashton's Band
Bargain Nites, Monday Nites
Dance All Evening, 25 Cents

New Dancing Pavilion in Connection—Cottages For Rent
"HOTEL TAGGART"
WILL BOGAN, Proprietor
Bass Lake, Indiana P. O. Knox, Ind.



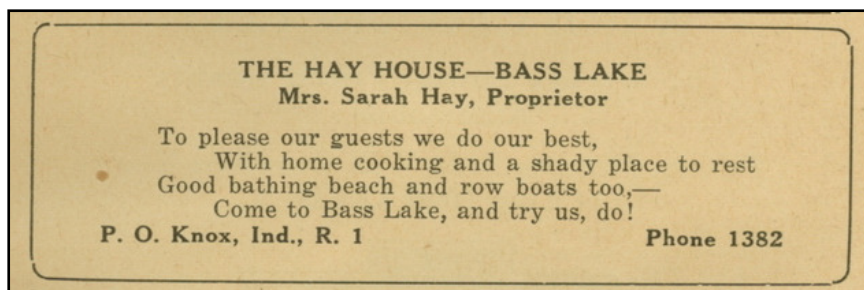
The **Kemp Hotel** was first built by August White in the 1880's as a home, but later it was sold to Tom Kemp, who turned it into a hotel.

It is listed in 1910's phone books and is located just north of Cedar Point on the west side of the road.

This photo was taken in 2002.

The **Hay House** was located at the north end of the lake at what is now 4140 South CR 210.

It is one of the few hotels from the early days of Bass Lake still standing, although it is now a private home.



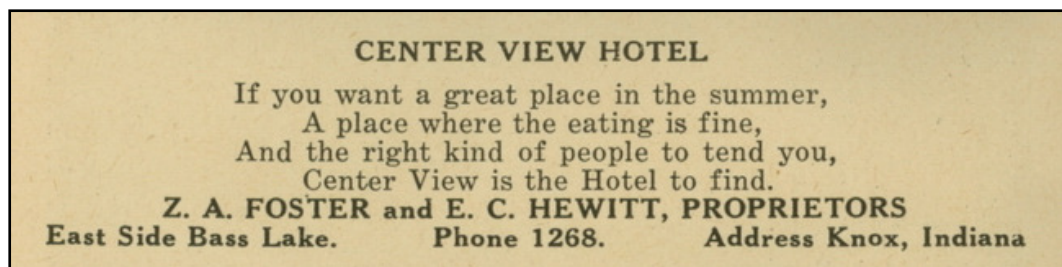
The **Center View Hotel** was located on the east side.

It is also one of the few early hotels still standing, although it is a private home at 5263 East SR 10.

It was still in operation as a hotel in 1950.



At one time, it was said L. Frank Baum wrote part of the “Wizard of Oz” while vacationing here. However, its present owners are convinced that was never the case.

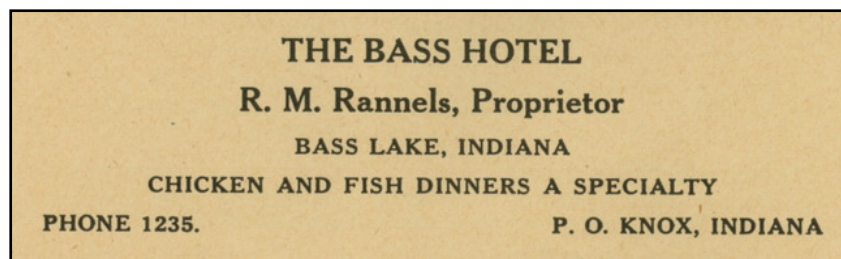


Nothing is known about the **Smith Hotel**, except for this picture. It may have been more of a family guest house.

It is possible that it belonged to a Dr. Smith who lived at the north end of the lake around 1900.



The first **Bass Hotel** was located on Bass Lake's west side near the intersection of 500 S and SR 210. Rannels was the proprietor



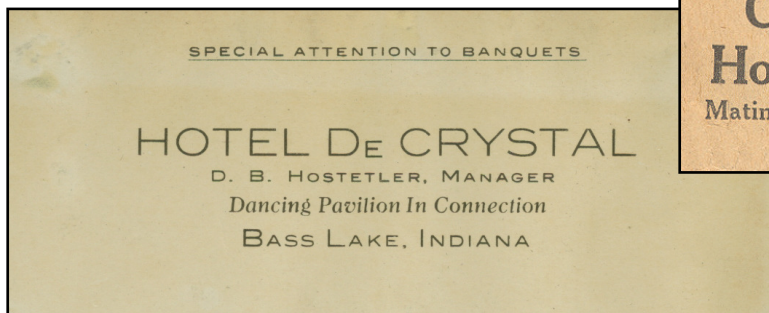
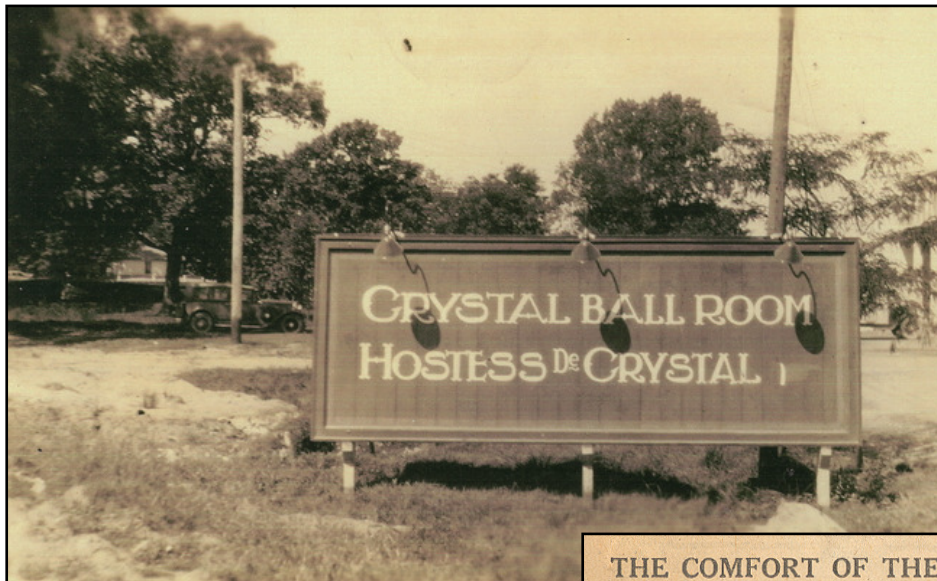
The second **Bass Hotel** was a larger two story hotel.

According to the newspaper in 1909, the Bass Hotel burned down.



Hotel DeCrystal was part of the Crystal Gardens complex at the south end of the lake. D.B. Hostetler was one of the proprietors.

The hotel was also known as the **Hotel DeHostess, South Shore Inn** and **Crystal Hotel**.

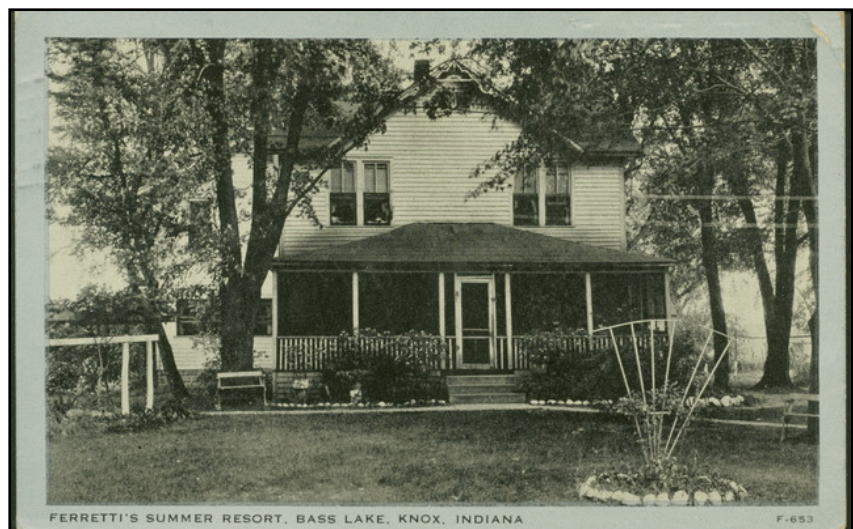




Behm's Hotel was located just south of Cranberry Point. Later it was known as the **Bamboo Lounge** and was demolished in 2003.

BEHM HOTEL—EAST SIDE NEAR CLUB HOUSE
 Henry Behm, Proprietor, Bass Lake, Indiana
 An Excellent Place for a Summer Outing
 Route 3, Box 96 Phone 1075 Knox, Indiana

Ferretti's Summer Resort was located on the southeast side.



Kaiserhof Hotel was located in Winona on the lake side of the road.

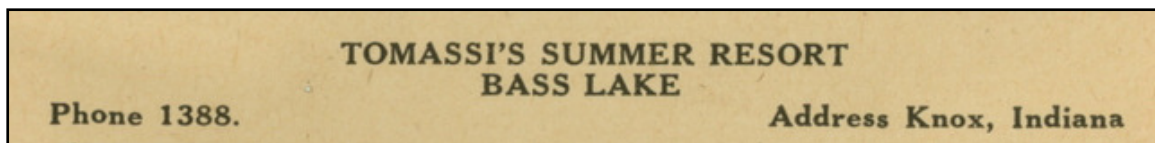


May Villa is shown on this postcard, but its location is not known.



Tomassi's Resort was located on CR 700 E just south of CR 400 S.

Today, although not in use, it belongs to the St. Anthony Ukrainian Orthodox Monastery.



R. Hoffmann Summer Resort was located on CR 550 E near the intersection of CR 200 S.



Kartman's Resort was located on CR 550 E near the intersection of CR 400 S. It attracted out of town vacationers during the late 1930's.

This photo was taken during the fall of 2004.



Ross Hotel and Restaurant

Meals at All Hours
Soft Drinks, Tobacco and Confectionary
MR. AND MRS. MARIE ROSS, Proprietors
Phone 1632 Bass Lake

Nothing is known about the **Ross Hotel & Restaurant**, except for this advertisement in a 1925 tourism booklet.

Knox



The **Hotel Fitz** was built in 1895 by Joseph Fitz, T.A. Wetherferd was an early proprietor. The hotel was located at the northwest corner of Bender & Main.

Later it was known as the **Traveler's Hotel**

FURNISHED WITH ALL THE MODERN IMPROVEMENTS
...HOTEL FITZ...
THE ONLY \$2.00 A DAY HOUSE IN THE TOWN
Knox, :: Indiana.

**Traveler's
Hotel**
HEADQUARTERS FOR THE
TRAVELING MAN
Hot and Cold
Water in Every Room
SHOWERS
ROOMS \$2.00 and UP
FINE FOOD
Sea Food — Steak — Chops
PHONES
1131 AND 274
Western Union Office
23 S. Main Knox, Ind.

THE HOTEL FITZ
C. B. HOSTETLER & SON, Proprietors
Newly Furnished Throughout—Steam Heat
Rooms with Hot and Cold Water and Bath
Phone 1131—Knox, Indiana
On the left in picture below.

Henry F. Schricker is said to have roomed here during his bachelor days.

The **Fay Hotel**, another fine brick hotel, was built in 1895 by T.J. Fay at the southeast corner of Pearl & Washington.

It was known as the **Steven's House** in 1902, with A.J. Stevens as the proprietor.



THE KNOX HOTEL

Southeast Corner from the Court House
Quiet, Home-like, Restful—American or European
Phone 763—Mrs. J. Wallace, Proprietor

In the 1920's, it was renamed the **Knox Hotel**. And a few years later it became the **Home Hotel**.

HOME HOTEL

FOR THE BEST IN
FOODS and ACCOMMODATIONS
LARGE, PRIVATE DINING ROOM

FOR
Weddings - Banquets - Parties

Phone 15

Pearl and Washington St.

Knox, Ind.



The **Central Hotel** was one of Knox's early hotels and may have been built in the 1870's at the southwest corner of Lake & Main.

This 1905 picture shows Rannel's Restaurant and First National Bank on the 1st floor. It burned down in June of 1909.

The **Grand Hotel** was also one of Knox's earliest hotels and was built in 1870. J.G. Kratli was the proprietor in 1902. It stood at the northeast corner of Lake & Shield Streets.

According to a Sanborn Map, it was not in use as hotel by 1895, and the 2nd and 3rd floors were vacant. At that time the 1st floor contained a Flour & Feed store and Millinery.

After the disastrous fire on Main Street in 1909, Edgel's Shoe Shop relocated there.

It was demolished in 1920 to make way for more modern stores.



The **Royal Hotel** was located across the alley just east of the Grand Hotel and is shown on 1904 and 1909 Sanborn Maps. It was located on the 2nd floor with the 1st floor occupied by a 2nd hand store.

The **Nickel Plate Hotel & Restaurant** was located at the southwest corner of Pearl & Bender adjacent to the railroad tracks.



Nickle Plate Hotel and Restaurant

DALLAS E. CANNON, Proprietor—Knox

Our Motto: "Courtesy and Service"
Opposite the Nickle Plate Depot—Phone 69

Swartzell's Boarding House was located at the northwest corner of Heaton & Washington.

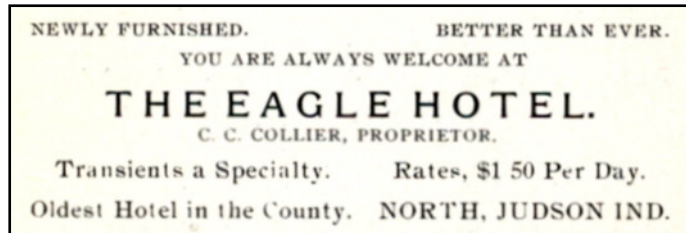
Later, it became the Price Funeral Home and is today the home of Smith Funeral Home.



The **Commercial Hotel** was located on the northeast corner of River or Bridge & Mound Streets across from the courthouse. It shows up on Sanborn Maps from 1895 – 1909 with a dining room.

The **Marsh Manor** was another boarding house located in Knox.

North Judson



The **Eagle Hotel** advertised itself as the oldest hotel in Starke County. It was located on the east side of the railroad tracks just north of Franklin Street.

Jacob M. Troxell was the proprietor in 1884.

Hotel Transit was located on Lane Street just north of the Neupert Building. On an 1895 Sanborn Map, it called the Arlington Hotel.

Later the Gable Theatre was built at this location.





This picture shows the **Hotel Bradford** in 1921. Later it became the home of Coddington Pants Factory.

The **Paxton Hotel** is one of the older buildings in town. It was built by Mr. Kubik, and has been owned and operated by the Paxton Family since 1922.



According to Chester McCormick's 1902 History of Starke County, the **Erie Hotel & Railroad Restaurant** was one of three hotels in North Judson at that time. The other two being the Hotel Transit and the Eagle House.

1895 and 1902 Sanborn Maps show a **City Hotel** on Lane Street just north of Central Avenue. It has a bakery and lunch room. This might have become the Erie Hotel mentioned above.

An 1876 business directory lists P.H. Nealis, proprietor **Nealis Hotel**. At this time, it is not known if the Nealis Hotel was a predecessor of a later hotel or a hotel that failed to survive.

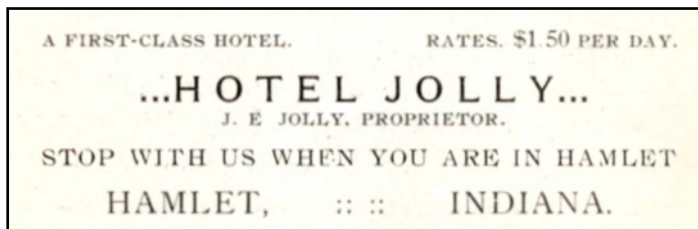
The 1966 North Judson Centennial Book, page 29, mentions a **Central Hotel** on Main Street as being the 1st hotel in North Judson. Nothing else is known about this hotel.

Hamlet



Hotel Jolly was built in 1895 by J.E.Jolly. It was a wood frame building located at the northeast corner of Davis & Main.

In 1901, Hamlet's telephone exchange was also located in the building.



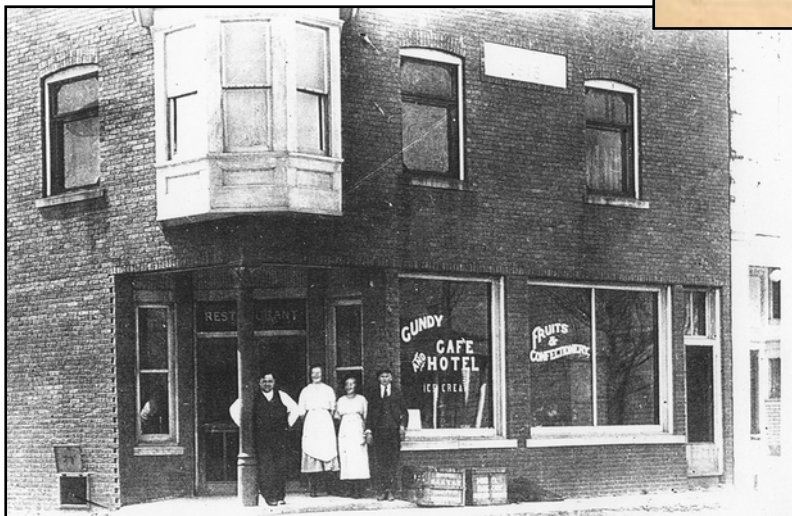
Hotel Jolly Hamlet . . Indiana

When in need of a meal, or
lodging, give us a call.
Special attention to traveling-men.

Ed. Weissert, Prop.

In 1915, Benninghoh built a brick building at the southwest corner of Starke & Davis. One of the 1st businesses located there was **Smith's Cafe**. At some point, it was known as the **Hamlet Café & Hotel**.

In 1921, it was known as the **Gundy Café & Hotel**.



By 1924, it was known as the **Yellowstone Café & Hotel**, in recognition of America's 1st coast to coast highway passing right by its front door. W.P. Moyer was the proprietor at that time.

The building is still there today operating as Waymire's Corner Tap.

The building in which **Hotel Ferch** was located was built in the 1870's.

It was located at the southwest corner of Main & Davis. Rudolph Ferch was the proprietor in 1908.

Today, the building is part of Rannell's Funeral Home.



An 1896 map of Hamlet shows a **Cottage Hotel** located at the southwest corner of Davis & Hamlet.

Chester McCormick in his 1902 History of Starke County mentions the **McKinley House**. He says G.M. Veach was the proprietor of this hotel.

San Pierre

According to Chester McCormick's 1902 book on the History of Starke County, there were two hotels located in San Pierre.

Koontz Lake



Koontz Lake had a hotel in the 1920's or 1930's according to this postcard.

Davis Station



The **Mac-Saw-Ba Club** was built in 1880 just south of Davis Station by a group of Illinois hunters and fishermen.



English Lake

The **Chicago Club House** may have been another name for the English Lake Gun Club discussed below.



The **English Lake Gun Club** was built in the 1884 on the north side of the Kankakee by the “lake”. Its formal name was **English Lake Land Company**. This club may have also went by the name of **Chicago Shooting and Fishing Club**.

It was composed of 75 members, all millionaires.

In 1913, the group dissolved after the reclamation of their vast hunting lands. They then reorganized as the **Alpine Shooting and Fishing Club**, although many people continued to refer to them as the **English Lake Gun Club**.

The **Brighton Rod and Gun Club** was built in 1897 on the west side of town south of the river by a group from Brighton Park in Chicago. Their modest club burned down in 1901.

The **Railroad Club** was built by a group of railroad men from Logansport. Their humble building was located next to and under the Pennsy tracks. It burned down later.

Grovertown

According to Joseph McCormick’s 1915 book on the History of Starke County, there was one hotel located in Grovertown.