

## *The Thomas House - 103 South Central Avenue*

*In May of 1885, Joseph Thomas ran the Travelers House on the corner of South Central Avenue and South Depot Street. His business included "Board by the Day or Week, Wines, Liquors, Cigars and a Good Barn." Shortly after the fire, the Marshfield Times listed that Joseph had lost a total of \$5,100.00 in property and merchandise.*

*Near the end of 1887 the first of Marshfield's three-story brick buildings, the Thomas House, was completed. The Marshfield Times gave the following description of the new building in their December 30, 1887, issue. "...it is eminently fitting to give something of a description of the Thomas House, a large, three-story brick structure on the corner of Central Avenue and South Depot Streets opposite the Wisconsin Central Depot. The building standing upon the old site is 40 x 70. The first floor contains the office, saloon, sample room, parlor, living rooms, dining room, kitchen, pantry and laundry. The dining room has a capacity of about 50 persons. The second story is divided into a parlor, 11 bedrooms and servant's room. In the third story are 15 sleeping rooms. Many of the rooms are arranged for two beds and nearly all are planned for being warmed. The house is newly furnished throughout in walnut, ash and cherry in sets and well carpeted from top to bottom. The furniture was selected in Milwaukee by Miss Annie Thomas, daughter of the proprietor Joseph Thomas, and while no attempt at grandeur has been made, there is an air of neatness and comfort about the house that evidences good taste in selections, as a well-kept house. The building was erected at a cost of something over \$7,000 exclusive of furniture. The bar of the house is always stocked with the best goods, the table with the very best eatables and the house ranks among the finest in the city..."*



*The Thomas House around 1890. Patron rates were \$1.50 per day at this time.*



*The Juneau Hotel (Donald Schnitzler Collection)*

*Joseph Thomas erected the building in 1887 and conducted it until August 1889, when his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. M. G. Fleckenstein, assumed those responsibilities. Patron rates were \$1.50 per day at this time.*

*In a story in which originally ran in the Marshfield News Herald, October 25, 1927 (We Have With Us Every Day column, article of Felix LaPoint), Amanda Hendricks*

writes, "...In 1912 he [Felix LaPoint] purchased the Thomas House, remodeled it, and renamed it the Juneau Hotel. In 1915 he purchased the Mitchell Hotel in Tomahawk and conducted it for three years, after which he returned to this city..."

Ownership has changed over the years. Sometime between 1915 and 1930 C.E. Blodgett & Sons, Company bought the building. In January, 1978, C.E. Blodgett transferred ownership to Gordon Gottbeheut. Upon Gordon's death in 1987, his wife, Mary Kay Gottbeheut, continued renting out portions of the building..

Some of the businesses that have called the Thomas House their home include the Uniform Cottage, Jean's Beauty Bar, Hub City Jobbing Warehouse and Lynn's Floral Shop.

In May of 1996, the State of Wisconsin, Department of Transportation, became involved when the new Veteran's Parkway was being planned. The Thomas House was taken over by Central City Station, LLC in May of 1998 and was moved approximately 50 feet to the east. Also at that time Lyman Smith completely remodeled the building bringing it back to its present day splendor.

Some of the more current business since the moving of the building and remodeling include the Thomas House Restaurant, Nash Podvin Attorney, Bremer & Trollof Law, Thrivent Financial, Namaste Yoga, and the Marshfield Historical Preservation Society.



Current day Thomas House, now with front courtyard.

### **Thomas House**

Centrally located on the main thoroughfare and right under the shadow of the principal railroad of the city, the Thomas House is convenient in every respect for the traveling public and finds its advantages duly appreciated, as is proved by the liberal patronage it enjoys. On the 14th of this month the management of the house passed into the hands of E. Nelson, who formerly conducted the Hotel Dewey in Stevens Point, Wis. He has confidence that the trade of the house can be greatly increased if further accommodations are provided, and with this point in view he will immediately remodel and enlarge the hotel, making some radical changes and expects to add a café. Mr. Nelson is a genial and accommodating landlord with twelve years experience in the hotel business. He is one of those hosts who set at rest in the first few minutes of intercourse all doubts a stranger may have as to the nature of his entertainment. His welcome is cordial and sincere and flows from a considerate interest in the welfare and comfort of his guests. Mrs. Nelson is a model and experienced landlady. She has always ably and industriously seconded her husband's efforts in the hotel business, putting into effect his useful suggestions and supplementing them with many of her own. The rates of the house will be the same as heretofore, \$1.00 and \$1.50 per day.

**(from the Marshfield Times, July 25, 1902)**

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*If you have any additional information (including pictures) regarding this business or location, we would really appreciate you contacting us and sharing. We will add information whenever possible.*

*For questions, or for sharing additional information, please contact us at [schnitzl@charter.net](mailto:schnitzl@charter.net). Please include what story the information relates to. Attach your text information in the form of a word document, please no PDF's. Photos should preferably be in jpeg format.*

*For additional stories on the historical sights and businesses of Marshfield, visit our website at: <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/QR-Codes-of-Historical-Marshfield.html>.*