

History of 606-608 Main Street

Current Location of The New Leaf Tea Room & Gift Shoppe



Like many addresses in the Riverton business district, the property at 606—608 Main Street has seen a number of different occupants before coming under the ownership of the current proprietors in 2003 as the now familiar New Leaf Tea Room & Gift Shop.



Provisions dealer Ezra Perkins erected the house at 608

Main in 1889, and then built a small adjacent structure at 606 as his butcher shop about 1900.

William Stiles, a prosperous Riverton pharmacist who had his own drug store at 526 Main Street, purchased the properties in 1910, and then promptly leveled the butcher shop to build in its place a “thoroughly modern drug store and soda water fountain.”

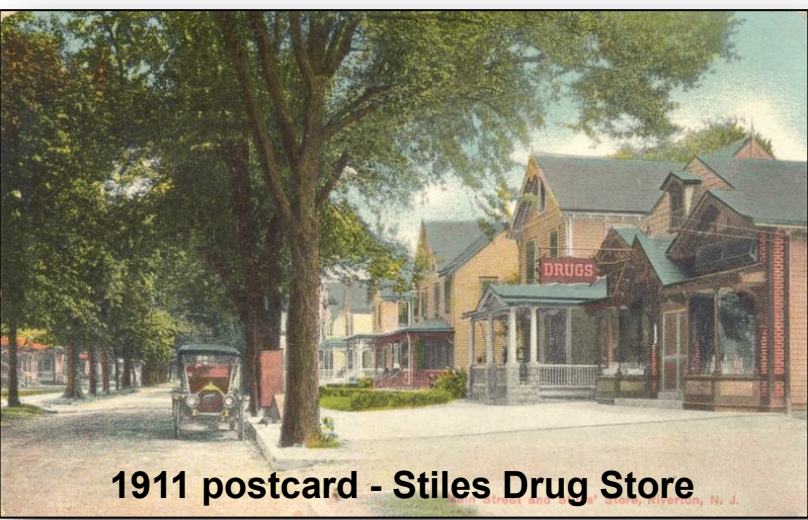
Stiles' Drug Store
607 Main Street
Riverton

FULL LINE OF
TOILET ARTICLES
and
SICKROOM
REQUISITES

Whitman's Candy

Telephone 300
FREE DELIVERY

Stiles razed the butcher shop and opened his new establishment in April 1910. The drug store carried not only the latest pharmaceuticals, but it also operated a small lending library where, for a cent a day, one could rent a book to read. The soda fountain proved popular, and the regular stock also included various toiletries.



1911 postcard - Stiles Drug Store

William Stiles and his wife lived in the house at 608 Main Street until they built a new home on the corner of Thomas and Midway.

By January 1925, Riverton’s hometown newspaper, *The New Era*, indicated the Riverton News Agency had moved and now shared the 606 Main Street address with Stiles’ Drug Store.

RIVERTON NEWS AGENCY
606 MAIN STREET

CIGARS TOBACCO CIGARETTES
Our Cigars are kept fresh by the most improved style moisteners

CRANE'S ICE CREAM
SCHRAFFT'S CHOCOLATES

Full line of Magazines, Valentines, Postal Cards
Complete line of Books by popular authors, 75c ea.
Come in and inspect our catalog of latest books
Any book not in stock can be had in two days

GLASS & CONNELLY
BELL TELEPHONE EVENING PAPERS

The last Stiles ad appeared in the fall of 1927, and no advert with the 606

Main address appeared at all during 1928, perhaps an indication of business inactivity at that location.

BLANKENBUSH The Drug Store Your Doctor Recommends

However, in March 1929, *The New Era* announced that B.E. Blankenbush of Merchantville had purchased Stiles Pharmacy and it was UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

“Now open after extensive alterations,” the new owner boasted that its “...fresh and complete stock includes all the newest and best in drugs and toilet requisites.”

The renovated store served Breyer’s Ice Cream at the newly installed soda fountain, and further promised prompt attention to telephone orders with no-charge delivery.

IF THEY ONLY KNEW

IF YOUR youngsters only knew how they will treasure snapshots of their childhood after they grow up, they would want pictures taken of them nearly every day. Besides the pleasure they will give your children, just think how much today's snapshots will comfort you a score of years from now. Provide yourself with a Kodak today. Stop and see our line.

Kodak prices start at \$5

B. E. BLANKENBUSH
PHARMACIST
606 Main St. Riverton

In 1944, Freeman Hunter purchased the closed Blankenbush Drug Store and residence, and he operated a fine furniture store there for over 30 years.

Worth Waiting For!

As Advertised in LIFE

LANE
Cedar
HOPE CHEST

Yes! Lane, the real love gift, is worth waiting for! To assure earliest possible delivery on your Lane Chest, register your name on our Lane waiting list now!

FREEMAN E. HUNTER CO.
606 Main Street, Riverton

Will Ann and Ray Szulczewski acquired the premises in 1979 as the new home of their plant and gift shop after the fire in the old J.T. Evans Building destroyed their original store.

Finally, in 2003, Phyllis and Bryan Rodgers bought the 3,852-square-foot property and transformed it into the elegant, yet cozy, tea room that today ranks among the best in New Jersey.

The buildings retain many of their vintage characteristics and architectural details such as: the original, ornately embossed 15-foot tin ceiling, apothecary shelves, showcase windows, pocket doors, arches, corbels, and moldings. An enclosed walkway originally used when the druggist was called at night connects the two structures. The passageway now serves as an entrance to the formal Victorian tea room, which occupies the first floor of the 1889 house.

Certainly, this is not the last chapter of Riverton history for this Main Street landmark which has housed the aforementioned business enterprises from within this charming Victorian structure for over a century.