

1954



# CENTER STREET

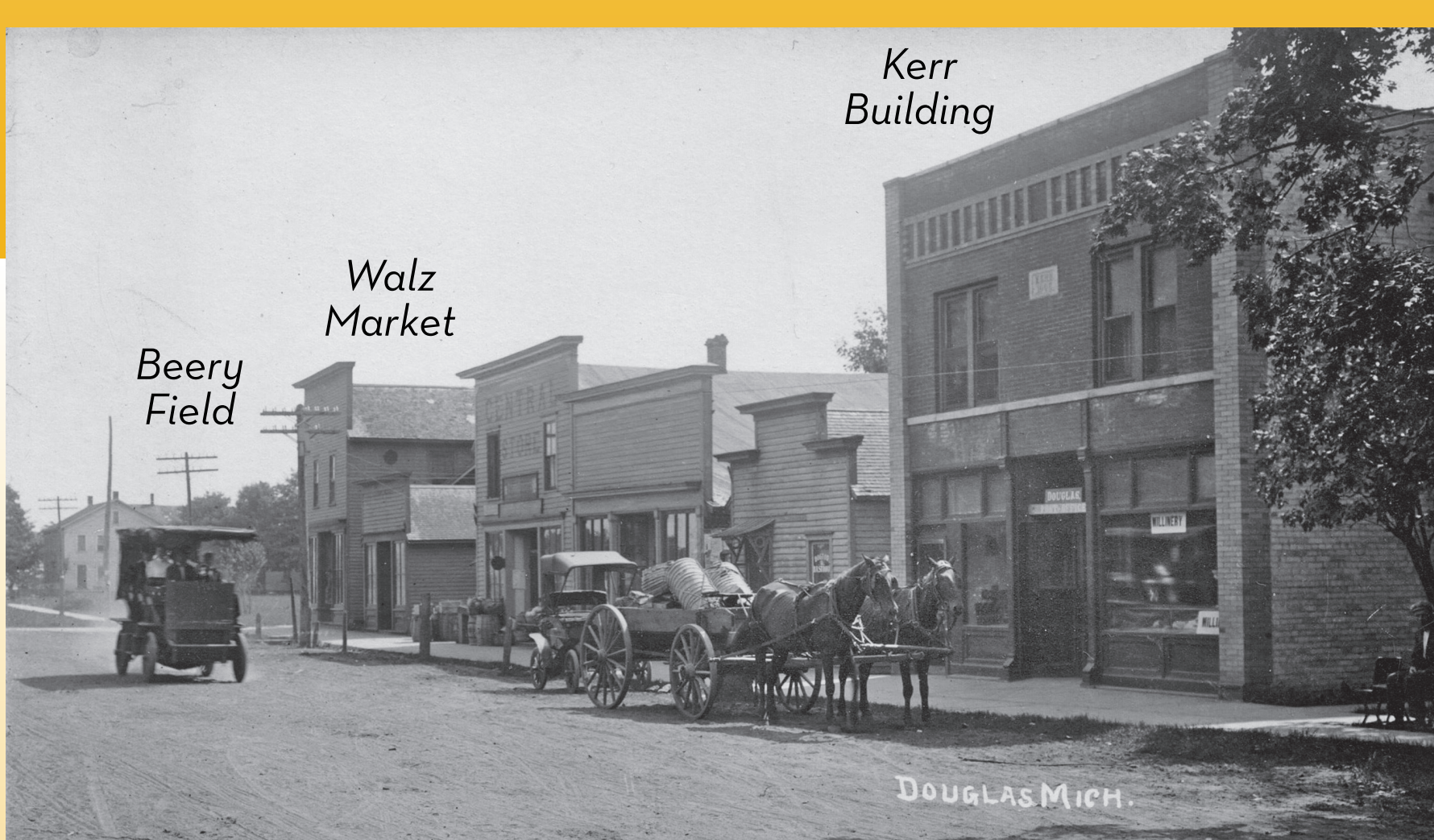
Center Street was once the dividing line between the two communities of Douglas (to the north) and Dudleyville (to the south). The two towns eventually joined in 1870 under the single name Douglas. Center Street has always been the central commercial area of the town and is still studded with historic structures.



Built in 1870 as a non-denominational union church, **137 West Center Street** later served as a Methodist church, an Odd Fellows Hall, a Douglas Athletic Club gymnasium, and the Saugatuck-Douglas District Library.



**Dutcher Lodge and Douglas Village Hall** was at the center of daily life in early Douglas. It housed the Village Council and Masonic Lodge, along with social gatherings, meetings, and dances. The building was constructed in two parts over time, the west half in 1875 and the east half in 1902.



This view of unpaved Center Street is looking east, toward Beery field. Note the electric car on the far left of the image. Two historical gems remain on this block: the **1881 George Walz Meat Market** at 11 West Center (now part of Everyday People Cafe) and the brick **1907 Kerr Building** at 33 West Center.



Built around 1902, the building on the northwest corner of Center and Main was originally **Ben Weigert's Model Grocery Store**. Other past businesses include a barber shop, beauty shop, real estate office, upholstery shop, and an auction house. The later inspired the Auction House restaurant, located here in the 1980s.