

#7: Old Dutch Fort (141 West Main Street)

This is a four-story building, though you can't see all four levels except from the river side. It was constructed to house the firm of White & Ayres, an early-day "department store" and produce firm which did a thriving business here. It is believed that the lowest level of this building may have been used as part of an "underground railroad" during the Civil War, for, until recently, shackles remained in the brick walls. This building is also called "The Old Dutch Fort," because it was part of the scene of action during the Slicker War in the 1840's. The Slicker War began as a feud between two local families, the Joneses and the Turks, and the bloody conflict eventually involved nearly every man in Warsaw and in the then heavily settled areas south of the Osage River. Men captured by the Slickers were tied to trees and "slicked" with hickory switches, many beaten until they died (and this is how the conflict got its name). Under the exterior of this building front remain bullet holes from guns fired when the anti-Slickers marched on Warsaw. In this building, just before the War Between the States, Malcom Hay was a clerk, who went away to war and later became Assistant Postmaster General of the United States.