The Village of Hamburg
A Brief History of "White's Corners"

The intersection of Main and Buffalo has changed many times over the years. About 1820, this settlement was called "White's Corners" as Thomas T. White had a shop here. The village grew rapidly after the Buffalo and White's Corners Plank Road was built around 1850. In 1871, the post office was called "Hamburgh" and the village took that name in 1874. In 1877, the final "h" was deleted, making our community the village of Hamburg. In 2007, the intersection of Main and Buffalo Streets was changed to a modern traffic roundabout, once again changing the appearance of the old White's Corners.

This panoramic photograph shows the four corners of Main and Buffalo Streets, decorated to celebrate "Old Home Days," the 100th anniversary of the Town of Hamburg. This photograph was taken in 1912 by Frank J. Fisher using a Cirkuit camera that rotated 360 degrees on its tripod, capturing the village activity.

The southwest corner was dominated by Federspeil Grocery Store. This building was later used as Eckhardt's Hotel, and then Kronenberg's Store before it burned in 1972.

The Bunting Block stood on the northwest corner. This landmark was built by Thomas L. Bunting and housed "six stores in one." Horton's Pharmacy was located on this corner for many years. The Bunting Block was destroyed by fire on May 23, 1969.

Kopp's Hotel and Opera House was on the northeast corner. This is where George Kopp ran the largest and most lively social hall in the village. All the big events were held here; music recitals, Hamburg Academy graduations and the annual Hamburg Free Library Ball.

The B.M. Fish Dry Goods Store was on the southeast corner. Burton M. Fish operated the store. The Hamburg Free Library was located on the second floor until 1915. The Fish building burned in 1917 and the Hotel Hamburg, also located on this site, burned in 1967.

Village of Hamburg Historic Preservation Commission, 2008