

THORNTON TAVERNS

In the 1960's, There Were 16 Operating Taverns in Thornton

A: 121 S. William St. – Built 1923

- Built during Prohibition by George Bozich, most likely a boarding house
- Village Tavern – Proprietor George Bozich
- Rudy's – Proprietor Rudy Frezza
- Steve & Mary's – Proprietor Steve Mrzack (son-in-law of Bozich)
- 1976: The Pit Tap – Proprietor Donald Lamoureux
- 1980s-2010: Harry O's, Harry's Bar, Harry's Sports Bar – Proprietor Harry Lamoureux
- 2010: The Mill Bar & Grill – Proprietor James Letsons

B: 106 S. William St.

- Originally Stolzenbach's Meat Market: 1880 Census lists John Stolzenbach as a butcher
- 1940: Melder's Tavern – Proprietors George & Marie Melder; had a nickelodeon
- Janealee Tavern – Proprietors Alex & Jane Murawski, small banquet hall in basement; fish fries on Friday
- Shorty's
- 1973: Ma's Kitchen – Proprietor Peter (Mousy) Boskovich, his mother ran the kitchen during the day
- Ziggy's – Proprietors Mel Wilkins and Rich Jacobucci
- Building Demolished

C: 100 S. William (SW Corner Margaret & William Sts.) LOT 1, BLOCK 18

- Mar. 28, 1872: Albert Stick transfers to Frederick Gardner via Warranty Deed
- Mar. 6, 1893: Frederick Gardner transfers to Gottlieb Wiedermann via Warranty Deed
- About Aug. 1903: Gottlieb Wiedermann dies, leaving property Sep., 1903 to wife Fredericka
- 1911: Tavern called Hecimovic & Plecos (Plecas)
- Oct. 28, 1916: Joseph Hecimovic, Saloon Keeper, dies
- Jan. 2, 1917: Fredericka Wiedermann transfers to Jaga Hecimovic via Trust Deed
- 1920: Prohibition – Census shows building as a "Soft Drink Parlor"; Proprietors Joe Stranjana and Dan Plecos
- Sometime between 1922 and 1935, Jaga Hecimovic becomes Jaga Rupcic(h)
- 1940 Census: Nick Rupcic listed as Bartender in a Tavern
- July or Aug., 1946: Jaga Rupcic appears to default on taxes owed as the State of Illinois and Cook County apparently file liens (This is a guess)
- Mar. 14, 1947: The Cook County Clerk transfers to P.A. Rattray via Certificate of Purchase
- June 5, 1947: P.A. Rattray transfers to Jaga Rupcic via Certificate of Redemption
- Late 1953: Jaga Rupcic dies, leaving property to heirs in early 1954; John M., James Ray, and John W. Rupcic, and likely 3 others in equal, undivided 1/5 shares
- Nick's Place – Proprietor Nick Rupcic; there was a small store/gas station in back of tavern
- Between May, 1966 and March, 1967: The specifically named 3 Rupcic heirs all die
- Oct. 22, 1969: Nard's Inn – F (Frank) Nardi obtains a Trust Deed (similar to a Mortgage) on the property from South Holland Trust and Savings Bank
- 1970s: Luchon's – Proprietor Mrs. Luchon, restaurant and bar
- Late 1970s: Galarbi's, Story End – Proprietors Gary and Larry Puhfal
- Jan. 2, 1984: The S. H. T. & S. Bank appears to grant to "K. Luchon et al" an interest in the property in an undefined transaction
- 1986: Grandma's Place/Liberty Electronics
- Various Stores
- 2012: Blades & Fades Barber Shop

D: S. William (SE Corner Margaret & William Sts.)

- 1910: Wm. F. Hering's Tavern – Proprietor William F. Hering

E: 100 N. William (NW Corner Margaret & William Sts.)

LOT 5 – Brick Store (tavern) & LOT 6 – Frame Dwelling House adjoining, BLOCK 17 LOTS 7 & 8, BLOCK 17 – Unimproved & unencumbered

- History prior to 1865 is unknown, records destroyed in Chicago Fire
- Lager Beer Saloon – Date and proprietors unknown
- Oct. 2, 1865: Originally a one-story dwelling: Sanford Case transfers Lot 6 to Josiah Skinner via Warranty Deed
- Dec. 27, 1871: Josiah Skinner transfers Lot 6 to James N. Shannon via Warranty Deed
- Apr. 23, 1877: Phebe A. Schwanke transfers Lot 5 to James N. Shannon via Warranty Deed
- Dec. 10, 1877: James N. Shannon transfers Lots 5 and 6 to John Schultz via Warranty Deed – Proprietors John and Maria Louisa (Templin) Schultz
- 1881: John Schultz dies in 1880, wills Lots 5 and 6 to his stepson Henry Templin; said premises were granted for life to Maria Louisa (Templin) Schultz, widow of John Schultz
- Mar. 17, 1885: The Clerk of Cook County transfers Lots 7 and 8 to Asahel Gage via a Deed in Trust
- June 7, 1886: Asahel Gage and Helen S. Gage, his wife, transfer Lots 7 and 8 to Henry Templin via a Quit Claim Deed
- 1895: H. Templin's Place – Proprietor Henry Templin; second story added 1895, used as family residence until 1902
- Jan. 5, 1909: Henry Templin dies, wills Lots 5 and 6 to his wife, Eliza (nee Bielefeld) Templin; Lots 7 and 8 are also bequeathed to her under separate documents
- 1910: George V. Groh Tavern – Proprietor George V. Groh, second story Bielefeld Brewing Co. Inc. Headquarters
- Aug. 17, 1914: Eliza Templin transfers Lots 5 and 6 to her son, Henry J. Templin, via a Quit Claim Deed; Lots 7 and 8 are also transferred under separate documents
- Feb. 16, 1923: (Prohibition) Henry J. Templin transfers Lots 5 and 6 to Helen Plecas via Warranty Deed; Lots 7 and 8 and also transferred under separate documents
- 1930: (Prohibition) Census shows Helen Plecas as proprietress of a rooming house
- 1940: Census does not show the building being used as a tavern
- Joe's Tavern – (Date unknown) Proprietor Joe Plecas; had a partnership with Joe "Gagi" Stranjana who passed away in 1971
- Joe's Tavern closed 1995
- April 2010: Building Demolished

F: 101 N. William St. (NE Corner Margaret & William Sts.)

- 1910: Wm. Garret's Inn – Proprietor William Garret
- 1915: Brewery barn moved to property from 400 Margaret St.
- Building then served as a restaurant/bar:
- Bert's Place – Proprietor Ben Francis
- Isabelle's – Proprietors Isabelle and Carl Berg, sold to Jarosky Family
- The New Isabelle's – Proprietors Tommy and Lynn Wojciechowski Cartwright and Lansing man
- 1980s: Sam Dooley's – Proprietor Greg Zenger
- 1986: Building Burned Down

G: 109 N. William St.

- American Legion originally located at 107 S. William St.; Operated by American Legion Post 1070

H: 201 N. William St.

- Originally French's Grocery Store
- Toepfer's Grocery Store
- Stalman's Tavern – Proprietor Stanley Stalman
- Nimmo's Tavern – Proprietor Charles Nimmo
- 1970s: Peggy's Truck Stop
- 1970s-1986: Gene's Pizza Pub – Proprietors John Ruffalo and Jim Ferrar
- 1986-1988: Kit & Joe's – Proprietors Kitty & Joe Reibel
- 1988-1990s: Rookie's – Proprietors Jim Ferrar, Lee & Jim Jansma
- Building Demolished

I: 100 E. Margaret St.

- 1900: Henry Dreyer's Saloon – Proprietors Henry & Dorothea Dreyer
- 1920 Census: William Dreyer listed as Proprietor of "Soft Drink Parlor" (Prohibition)
- 1940: Milan's – Proprietor Milan Shobak
- Gibby's Inn – Proprietors Gilbert & Betty Blank
- 1963-64: Proprietors Jim and Irene Christ; they kept the Gibby's Inn name
- 1964: Quig's – Proprietor Lou Quigley
- 1970s: The Web – Proprietor Bill Jahnke
- Building Demolished

J: 104 E. Margaret St.

- Thornton Hotel – Owner Herman Schwantke
- Brownell Improvement Hotel – Manager William Garren
- Joe's Place – Proprietor Joe Zaranonello
- Joe built the larger building in 1938 at 110 E. Margaret St.

K: 110 E. Margaret St.

- 1938: Joe's Place – Proprietor Joe Zaranonello; three men were killed during construction
- 1940: Sold to H. Browner
- 1940s: Sold back to Mario and Renato Zaranonello, Joe's sons; after WWII; Reno sold out to Mario
- Mario's Thornridge Inn
- 1963: Restaurant destroyed by a Christmas tree fire

L: 400 E. Margaret St.

- 1836: Berry's Tavern – Proprietor Don Carlos Berry; brewed Berry's Beer and kept a tavern
- Berry sold cabin to Gurdon S. Hubbard, co-founder of Thornton
- 1857: John S. Bielefeld Home & Brewery, delivered beer by horse & wagon to local taverns
- 1899: John S. Bielefeld dies; son John B. Bielefeld and brothers take over business
- 1919-1933: Prohibition – Taken over by organized crime for bootlegging purposes
- 1920 Census: Carl Ebner, brewery owner, listed as Proprietor of "Soft Drink Parlor"
- 1933-1936: Thornton Brewing Company – Proprietor Joe Salis (former bootlegger)
- 1937-1950: Illinois Brewing Co., Frederick's Brewing Co., McAvoy Brewing Co. – Proprietors the Frederick Brothers
- 1951-1955: White Bear Brewing Co. – Proprietor Hildefonsas (Joe) Sadauskas
- 1985: Ken & Dick's Pizza
- Bambino's
- Widow McCleary's

M: 317 Water St.

- 1940: The Curve Inn – Proprietors the Quinlans; dance hall & bar, now a residence

N: South Hunter St. (Now Brownell Woods)

- 1900: Schwantke's Grove – Proprietor, Herman Schwantke
- People came from Chicago by train for a day in the country enjoying tavern, dancing, boating, picnic area, Flying Dutchman carousel & shooting gallery.

O: South Vincennes Ave. (William St) between Thornton & Glenwood

- Ma Getches – Proprietor Mrs. Getches; Tavern had a very long bar; on the north wall there were six private rooms furnished with a small table and a settee, each doorway was covered by a heavy velvet curtain

P: East Ridge Road (Thornton-Lansing Rd.) Road Houses

- (Most operated between mid 1920's to 1940's)
- Club 13, Dutch's, Kate's Blue Lanterns, Lange's Place, Red Lantern, Rose Bowl,
- Vikings Gardens – Proprietor, Rudy Frezza, Sr. (Remained open into the 1950's)
- 2011: Bottoms Up – Operating as bar & restaurant

Q: Brown Derby Rd. (West Ridge Rd.)

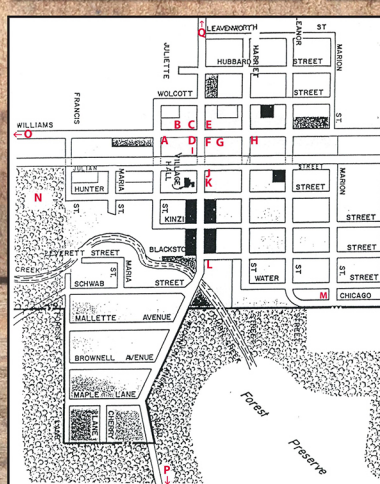
- Brown Derby Grove – Owned and Operated by George Bozich, included tavern, dance hall, picnic grove and merry-go-round, operated until mid 1950's (property now part of west lobe of the quarry)

Early Thornton Dram Shop Licenses:

- 1900: Henry Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Henry Templin
- 1901: Henry Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Fred Schwantke, Henry Templin
- 1902: Henry Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Chas. Kuntzenmann, F. Schwantke
- 1903: H. Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Wm. Hering, Fred Schwantke
- 1904: Henry Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Wm. F. Hering, Geo. Schwantke
- 1905: Henry Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Wm. F. Hering, Geo. Schwantke
- 1906: Henry Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Wm. F. Hering, Henry Mandelkow, G. Schwantke, Daniel Zegrah
- 1907: Dane Budmilya, Dorothea Dreyer, Henry Dreyer, Geo. V. Groh, Wm. F. Hering, Henry Mandelkow, Plecas Trikuja Dilik Co., Joseph Rogovich, Schwantke & Trikuja
- 1908: Dorothea Dreyer, G.V. Groh, Wm. F. Hering, Harry Mandelkow
- 1909: D. Dreyer, Wm. Garren, Geo. V. Groh, J. Hecimovic, Wm. F. Hering
- 1910: D. Dreyer, Wm. Garren, Geo. V. Groh, J. Hecimovic & Co., Wm. Hering
- 1911: D. Budmilya & Hecimovic, D. Dreyer, Wm. Garren, Geo. V. Groh & Budmilya, Hecimovic & Plecos, Wm. F. Hering
- 1912: Dane Budmilya, Dorothea Dreyer, Wm. Garren, Hecimovic & Plecos, Wm. F. Hering

NOTE:

- 1861 Business Directory: Herman Gardner listed proprietor of Grocery, Hotel & Saloon
- 1940 Census: Lists James Comerford owning a tavern on the corner of Williams St. & Ridge Road with his wife Mary as the tavern manager



Forest Preserves Seek 250 Acres More

The Forest Preserve district Friday filed suit in Circuit court to condemn 250 acres of land along the Thornton-Lansing rd., just east of Thornton township. Named among the properties was the ill-fated Club 13, at 18100 Ridge av., Thornton; scene of a recent fire. The operator of the club, Stanley Pondowski, 29, also was in the news earlier last week when he appeared in Federal court for arraignment of charges of violating the Mann act. Forest Preserve Attorney Russell Ross said the land was sought as an addition to the Thornton area, and that the territory involved is mostly wooded sections. Estimated costs of the land were about \$175 to \$200 per acre, from a total cost in the vicinity of \$50,000.

P