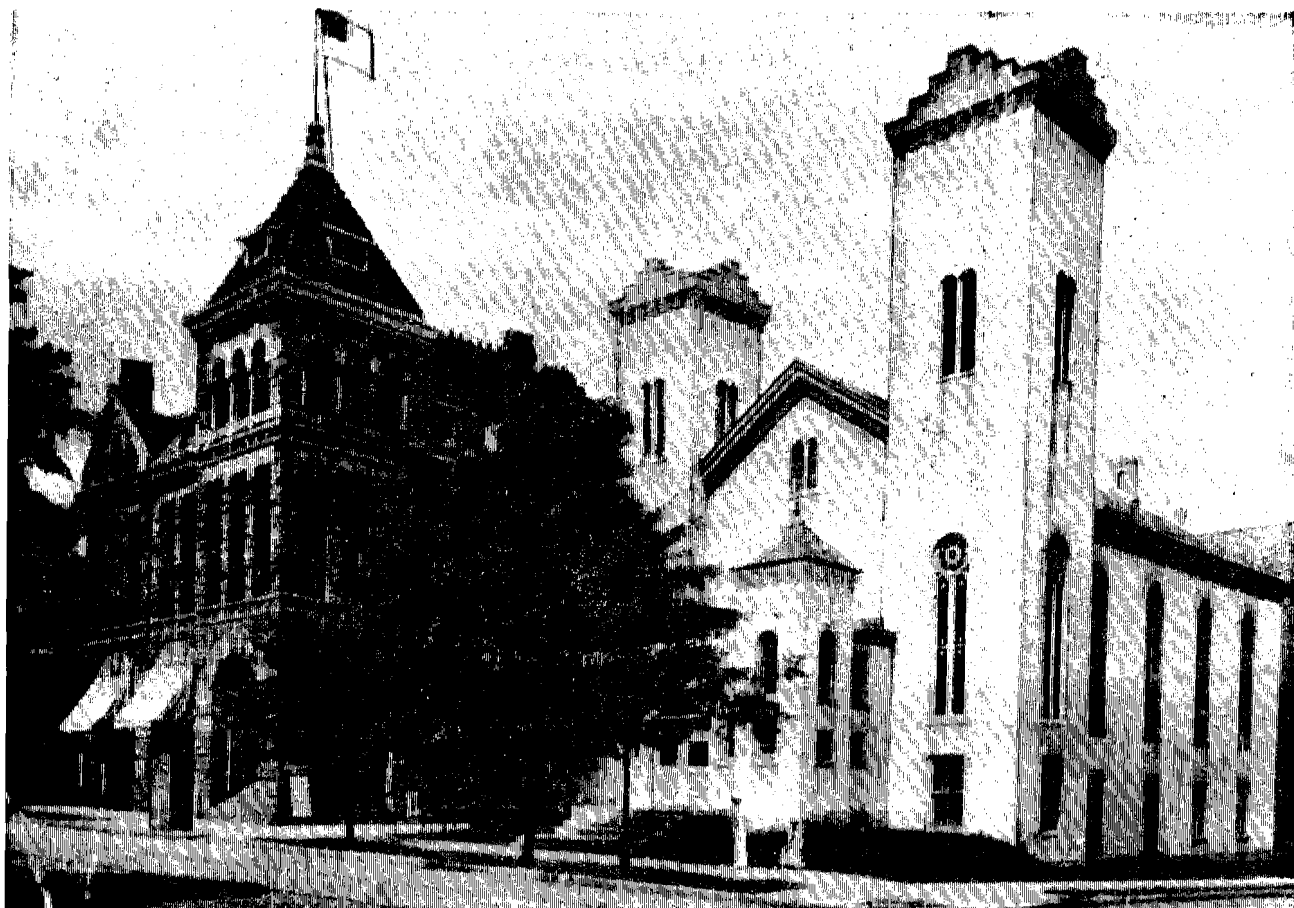


This Is The Mansfield That Was



During the late 1920's Mansfield was caught up in a business building boom which greatly effected some of the old landmarks that stood since the mid 1800's. The old Market Street (Park Avenue) Baptist Church was one such landmark that gave way to the boom. Located on the northwest corner of Park Avenue West and North Walnut Streets, the Baptist church was erected in 1863. The congregations (two which later merged) first used a house on East Third Street on the North side near Adams Street but three members purchased the corner lot on Park Ave. for \$3,200. The Farmers Savings &

Trust Co. purchased the property for \$125,000 on March 4, 1926 and the congregation moved into their present church on the northeast corner of Park Ave. and North Benton in 1929. The old Baptist Church (Farmers Bank site) is pictured above with the Madison Township Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building in the background. The Memorial building housed the Public Library and later the Opera House which burned in the 1930's. The Madison Theater has replaced the Opera House. (Photo courtesy of the Richland County Historical Society.)