



Kaiser Lumber Company Office

1004 Menomonie Street
1905, Vernacular Commercial



The Kaiser Lumber Company office is historically significant as one of the few remaining buildings directly associated with the large-scale lumbering which was central to the economy of late nineteenth- and early twentieth century-Eau Claire. A realignment of Menomonie Street in 1999 resulted in what had been the rear of the building coming to face the street.

Organized in 1905, Kaiser was the last lumber company established in the city. Headed by John Kaiser, it owned 16,700 acres and timber-cutting rights to another 21,200 acres in the Chippewa Valley. By 1911, it shipped twenty railroad cars of lumber out of the city each day. In 1913, Kaiser purchased the Daniel Shaw Lumber Company. After this expansion, the company employed 350 men and sawed between 150,000 and 175,000 feet of lumber daily. Its Eau Claire facilities occupied 46 acres in the lumber district at the south end of Half Moon Lake and include sawmills, a box factory, dry kiln, lathe mill, planning mill, power plant, and lumber yards. As a byproduct to lumber production, the company manufactured boxes utilizing timber not suitable for building purposes. By 1917, box manufacturing dominated the company's business. The cessation of production in 1939 marked the end of the final phase of the lumber industry in Eau Claire.