

Grandma Patty's Café

MAP 4 1.1 miles

1 Bremer Bank – The bank was organized in 1902, with O.F. Olson serving as its first president. In 1916, it was converted to the First National Bank of Brandon and was located at 102 Central Avenue. The bank closed in the 1920's. Farmers State Bank was organized in 1910, where Bremer is now located. This bank also closed in the 1920's. The bank was purchased by Otto Bremer and opened under the name Citizens State Bank in 1927. Many name changes have occurred throughout its history, but the bank has served as a "Bremer" bank continuously since 1927.

2 Pro-Ag Farmers – The railroad was built through the area in 1879 and began the history of Brandon's grain and feed industry. The largest elevator was built in 1879 by The Farmers Grain Company. The new building was 103 feet tall with a capacity of 40,000 bushels. It included a feed mill, seed plant and warehouse. The total cost for the construction was \$100,000. An annex was added to the west of the building in 1957. The building was built of wood crib design. A flat storage shed was built in 1958 and was located just across the street from Brandon Communications. In 2002, the building and feed mill were torn down. In 2005, a new tower dryer and grain leg were erected. The Farmers Grain Company was sold to Land O' Lakes in the 1970's. The Company was again sold in 1983 to Urbank Coop Creamery. In 1998, Urbank Coop Creamery merged with Miltoona Coop Creamery and became Pro-Ag Farmers Coop.

3 Grandma Patty's Cafe – This is the oldest building in Brandon. It is located at 107 Central Avenue. It has housed a café since 1898. Dennis and Randi Hulkonen are the current owners of the family restaurant, and have owned the business since 2004. The first property owner was Loren Fletcher in 1867. In 1898, O.L. Stenberg built the café building. George Videen bought the building in 1900, and named it George Videen Restaurant. The restaurant changed to Stariha's Café in 1928, and to Sportsman's Café in 1956, owned by Edward and Gertrude Loeffler. There have been many more name changes, owners, and renters of this building throughout the years.

4 Brandon Fire Department – The first meeting of the Brandon Fire Company was held in 1889. The first company had a man-drawn hose cart and stationary fire engine run by steam, and filled at a hand-dug well located on Front Street. In 1984, the department became known as the Brandon Fire Department. Its two companies included Engine Company #1 and Hook and Ladder Company #1. A new fire hall was built in 1980 and in 1982 the Alexandria Eagles Lodge named the Brandon Fire Department the "Best Fire Department in the County." In 1984, the Brandon First Responders unit was organized.

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