



The intersection at Senath in the early 1900's, looking north. The building in the foreground was the first brick building (now Booker's Grocery).

The arrival of the railroad - Houck's train - in 1892 did more to stimulate the growth of the town than any other one event. Before the railroad was built, Senath residents had to go to Kennett to see a doctor, or to Dexter or Cape Girardeau for flour or shoes, in a wagon drawn by oxen. Before the roads and the railroad were built, a family who allowed their fire to go out would send someone in a dugout to pole and push their way to a neighbor's home to borrow fire. The railroad was a spur from Malden, which extended to Byrd (Bucoda). The train was known as Ham's Train, and was later purchased by Frisco.

Soon after the turn of the century, had a two-block business district east west, three blocks north, and one block. The northeast block of buildings was constructed by Jim Douglass and John M. about 1900. The southwest block was built by J. I. Caner about 1913. The Hotel was built in 1913, the old city hall in 1913. The present city hall was originally a furniture store built about 1903 by C. P. McDaniel, became a funeral home, then the Richmond Theater, and now the Senath City Hall. The Bank of Senath and an opera house were on the southeast block. Above the