

"Beaconsfield Supply Store," 2007

Beaconsfield Supply Store

The name Hy-Vee is ubiquitous throughout Iowa and neighboring states. The Beaconsfield Supply Store was the first home of the grocery chain 'with the helpful smile in every aisle.' Built in 1916 to serve the small town of Beaconsfield in southern Iowa, the modest brick building was purchased by Charles Hyde and David Vredenburg – Hy and Vee – around 1930. Although both men had other retailing experience, this building represents their first partnership. For three years it provided food and general supplies while operating under three different managers. All the while, Hyde and Vredenburg were opening stores in Iowa and Missouri. After they closed the store in 1933, other retailers operated out of the building until the Beaconsfield Telephone Co-op bought it in 1956. Today, Hy-Vee is Iowa's largest private employer in operates stores in seven states. Beaconsfield, on the other hand, is Iowa's smallest incorporated city with a population of just 20. This building stands is a rare remnant of Beaconsfield role in Iowa's Golden Age of Agriculture. It is listed at both the local and state levels of significance. Marilyn Gahm, Hy-Vee History Center Coordinator, prepare the nomination for the city of Beaconsfield.