

The building at 316 East Main Street has been important to the commercial history of Buena Vista since its original construction circa 1890 and has been associated with noted people in the development of the town. The original owners are believed to be brothers, Levi, and Emanuel Block, who came to Buena Vista from Perryville, Missouri. They operated a dry goods store and associated commercial businesses along the north side of Main Street from the 1880s thru the 1920's. In 1898, Levi "Lee" sold his interests in Buena Vista to start a dry goods business in Leadville. He left his brother Emanuel "Ed" to continue his own business interests in Buena Vista as well as mining investments in the area. In 1919, Ed sold his building and improvements on Lot 8 Block 1 to Ed Kreuger for \$1,650. Ed Block left Buena Vista for Arizona and passed away in Prescott in 1932 at the age of 73. Levi eventually left Leadville and settled in Los Angeles and passed away in 1938 at the age of 75.

Ed Kreuger was a tinsmith in the area as early as 1882 and is noted for fabricating the weathervane that is atop the cupola at the Buena Vista Courthouse. He also operated a hardware store on the south side of main street (where the CKS building now stands) owned an additional building to the west on Main Street, and acquired several properties on the east side of south Railroad Street where he both lived and owned a warehouse, assay office and an unspecified business property. It is believed that he had a business in the storefront for a time and used the balance of the first floor as a warehouse. The second floor is noted for being used for basketball games and as a meeting space and venue for school functions. It was referred to as Kreuger Hall in the community. Ed Kreuger died in 1936 and his wife, Sophie managed his properties until her death in 1949. The property was sold in March of 1951 to John & Pearl Groy who purchased it with the intention of remodeling it into a movie theater.