

**THE WILLOUGHBY BLOCK**  
**CORNER OF CENTRAL and COURT STREETS, WOODSVILLE, NH**  
Vintage pictures available at White Mountain Trader, [info@wmtn.biz](mailto:info@wmtn.biz)

The Willoughby Block is on the opposite corner from the Opera Block. The downstairs is on South Court Street and the residential upstairs is on Central Street!

The building was built by George S. Cummings and E. B. Mann in 1869, twenty-one years before the Opera Block and Court House were built. It is a wood framed structure. The lower level, So. Court Street area was first utilized by Cummings and Drake as a drug store.

Mr. Drake was the druggist and soon decided to move to Lebanon. Mr. Cummings then took on E. B. Mann as a partner and the firm was called E.B. Mann & Co. In 1889 Ai Willoughby took over Mr. Cummings portion of the partnership.

The drug store moved across the street as soon as the Opera Block was finished and E.B. Mann went on to be the longest running family operated drugstore in the U.S.

Back across the street to the Willoughby Block. It was named after Ai Willoughby because he lived on the Central Street part of the building, after purchasing it, until his death in 1905.

Hiram Smith was a harness maker in Woodsville for over 60 years. Hiram practiced his craft further up Central Street, by what is now the convenient store, until E.B. Mann moved across the street.

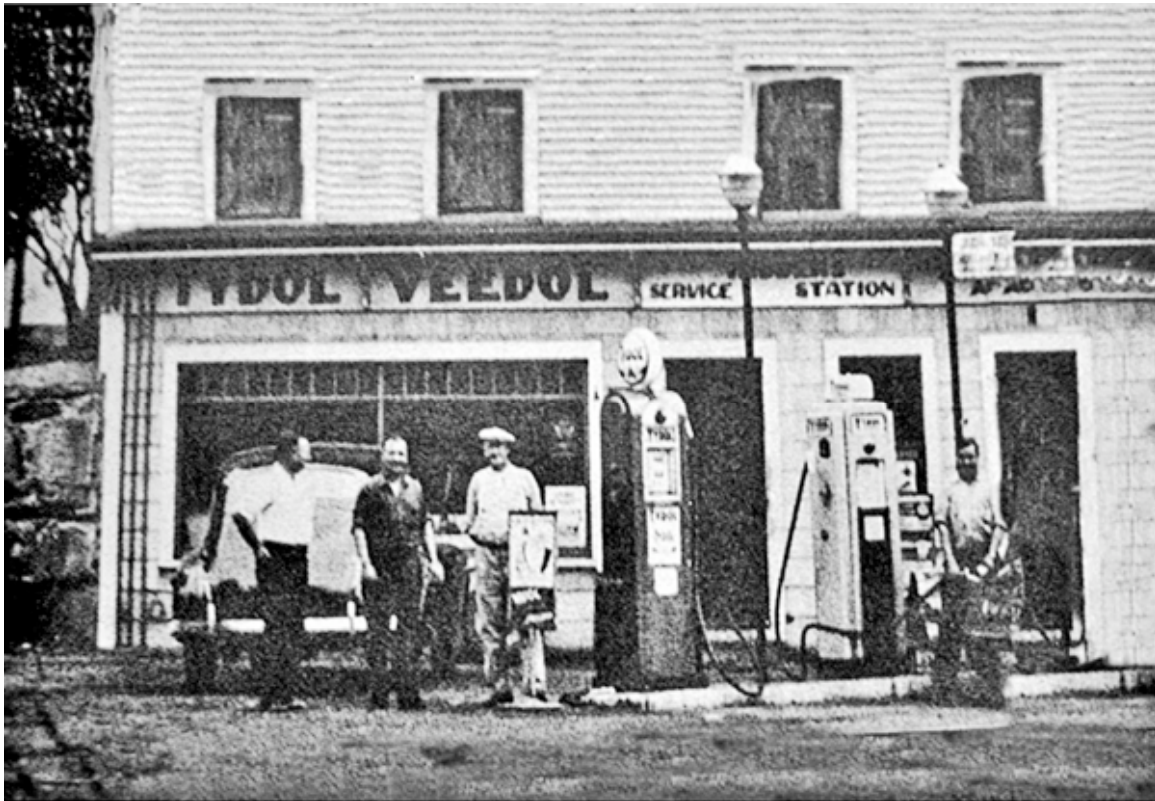
Hiram Smith moved his business into his home on Pleasant Street in the early 1930's. He died in his home from the stress of the 1954 Odd Fellows Block fire!

The following years housed shoemakers and barbers. In 1921 Strout Farm Agency was the tenant here. As was Maurice Walker in 1930.

Walker operated a garage and taxi service, offering Tydol-Veedol gas and oil.

The front of the garage on the South Court Street space was remodeled in 1940. Walker served in the Yankee Division in WW I. That is where the name of his business, "YD Service Station" came from. There was a repair bay added and business was brisk until 1946 when Mr. Walker sold his interest in the Tydol-Veedol business.

**It became Ernest Kidder's business in 1946 until about 1950.**



**Maurice Cutting sold gas here from 1950 to 1965. My longtime friend Dick Welch worked at Merrimack Feed Exchange and Armour's Meat Co., both on Railroad Street during that period of time. Dick would watch the filling station so Maurice could go home for dinner.**

**I was repairing watches for McAllister Jewelers, across the street in the Opera Block, at that time.**

**Occupants after Mr. Cutting were the Police Station 1965-1974, Montgomery Ward's catalog store 1974-86, the Video Mart until 1997, followed by the Mt. Moosilauke candy Shop, and it is now a flower shop.**

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