



BLOCKS - KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

(Arrangement—by Proximity)

by Jane Elliot Larson

In earlier days the center for trading was known as "The Street," which was the present Main Street, and much of the business was located south of the Eagle Hotel Block. As the town grew, business expanded north along the street and around the Common, in what is now known as downtown Keene.

BLOOMER & HASELTON BUILDING-21 Winter Street. The Baptist Society bought this lot from Levi Willard in 1839 and erected a brick church, which was later, beginning in 1886, used as an armory for the Keene Light Guard. This organization kept the building for many years, and then it was used by the New Hampshire State Guard. Fred E. Howe sold it in 1924 to Carl R. Bloomer, who remodeled the building into stores. In 1948 it was badly damaged by fire. Bloomer rebuilt, adding a number of small apartments. On September 9, 1967, the entire block was gutted by fire. Plans are currently being drawn up to rebuild the brick section.

BARKER BLOCK—Corner of Court and Center Streets. The old frame court house erected on the Common in 1796 was moved to the west side in 1808, and was moved to this site in 1824. The building was used as a

store until it was destroyed by fire in 1861. The present building was erected in 1870 and used through the years for apartments and small businesses, each section individually owned.

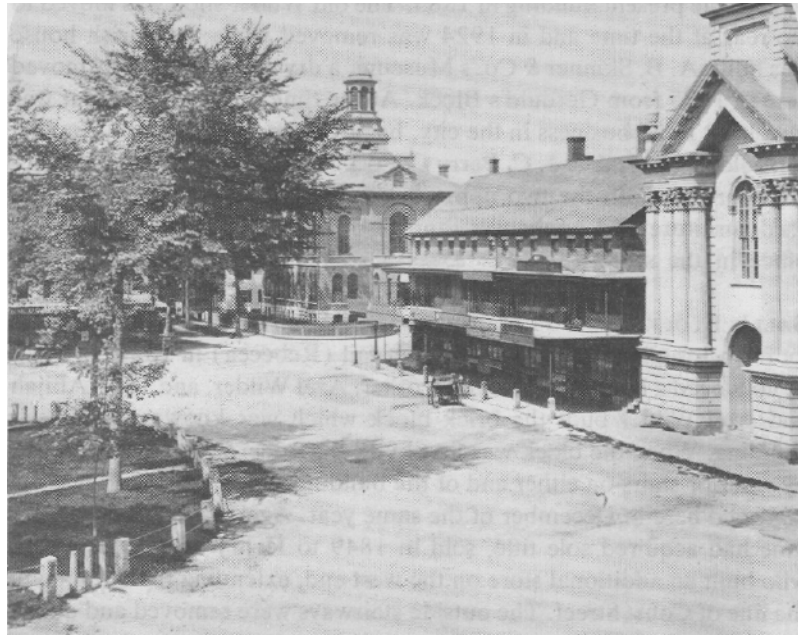
MUSEUM BLOCK-7-15 Court Street. Abijah Wilder Jr. built a cabinet shop here about 1823, and the building was later used as a dwelling. The First Congregational Society purchased the property in 1878 and erected the present building in 1885. The old Wilder shop was moved to the rear at the 'time and in 1924 was removed when the parish house was built. A. B. Skinner & Co.'s Museum, a dry goods store, was moved here in 1885 from Gerould's Block. At the time this establishment was the oldest retail business in the city, having been established by Samuel Gerould in 1819. The J. C. Perry Co. occupies the first floor, and there are apartments on the two upper floors. Perry is a dealer in new and used furniture and appliances, and also conducts a real estate rental office in the store.

BALL'S BLOCK-27-36 Central Square. Abijah Wilder Jr. bought this lot from Joseph Dorr and his wife Abigail (Rebecca) in 1821. **In** 1827 he conveyed a half interest to his brother, Azel Wilder, and 1828 Abijah and Azel Wilder built the brick block which was known as Wilder's Building. When the block was first built, the upper floors were reached by exterior stairs on either end of the building. The high school was established here in December of the same year. Azel Wilder, who by this time had acquired sole title, sold in 1849 to Henry and Amos Pond, who built an additional store on the west end, extending the building to the line of Court Street. The outside stairways were removed and others



Wilder's Block in its early days—circa 1830

built in the interior. In 1863 Henry Pond and the heirs of Amos Pond sold the building to George W. Ball. The heirs of Mrs. George Ball sold to Robert F. Carroll and Frank M. Wilder in 1927, and the building was later purchased by William Pearson, who removed the third story. The heirs of Pearson sold to Chase and Henry Shaw of the Keene Food Mart in 1967. Both floors are used for commercial purposes.



Ball's (formerly Wilder's) Block—circa 1880

CLARKE'S BLOCK—Site of the present Keene National Bank and Public Service Co. Block on the corner of Washington Street and Central Square. In 1799 Abel Wilder bought from Josiah Richardson the land and house at the corner of the Common and Prison (Washington) Street. The recently built house faced east and was considered to be the best house in town at that time. Wilder sold to Albe Cady in 1808, and Cady sold to Abijah Wilder Jr. in 1825. In 1827 Abijah Wilder conveyed a half interest to his brother Azel. The Wilders erected a small store between the house and the church in 1828. Azel Wilder quit-claimed to Abijah Wilder Jr. his interest in the old Cady lot in 1839. In

1848 Abijah Wilder Jr. conveyed to Henry and Amos Pond, by lease for 12 years, the buildings and land east of the Meetinghouse. The Ponds enlarged and improved the building next to the church, and turned the old Cady house one-quarter around to face the Common. The space between the two buildings was soon occupied by another building. Elbridge Clarke bought the land and buildings from Abijah Wilder in 1857, and afterwards the structure was known as Clarke's Block. In 1880 there was a disastrous fire in this block. A new brick structure was built on the corner, and Liberty Hall occupied the third floor. Elbridge Clarke's heirs sold to J. Whitney Buckminster, Adolf W. Pressler, and Ervin J. Davis in 1906, and later the Keene Gas & Electric Co. came into possession. In 1926 the Keene National Bank purchased from the Keene Gas & Electric Co. the old frame building between the church and the block on the corner and erected the present bank. The Keene Gas & Electric Co. sold to the Public Service Co. of N. H., which later demolished the brick block and erected the present structure.

WARREN BLOCK-26-28 Washington Street. Josiah Richardson sold this lot to the town of Keene in 1793 for a schoolhouse. Records show that a school had previously been located nearby. In 1844 the Keene Center School District sold the old two-story brick school to Eliphalet Briggs, who had a cabinet shop to the south. The schoolhouse, along with three adjacent buildings, was destroyed by fire in 1846. Joseph G. Warren bought this lot in 1865 and erected the present four-story brick block in 1872-73. The ground floor was occupied by a grocery store for many years. The late Fred and George Libbares ran a confectionery store and restaurant there for about 40 years. The building is now owned by their heirs.

BENNETT BLOCK-32-34 Washington Street. Josiah Richardson sold this lot, next north of the schoolhouse, to Nathaniel Briggs in 1803. Briggs built a house, which he sold in 1806. Whitcomb French bought the property from John Wood and Eliphalet Briggs in 1830 and opened a livery stable there. In 1834 Stillman French bought the property from Whitcomb French and continued the livery business. Joseph G. Warren purchased the house and stable in 1865. The main house was taken down in 1886, and the ell was moved to 77 Spring Street. Frank J. Bennett built the present block in 1926. The first floor is used for business and the two upper floors for apartments. The present owner is the Shattuck Realty, Inc.

HENRY & JOHNSON-36-38 Washington Street. Abel Wilder bought the house and lot for his residence in 1835 from John Wood. Eliphalet Briggs was the owner in 1844, and he sold to Augustus T. Wilder. In 1867 Joseph G. Warren bought the Wilder house and occupied it as his residence. The house remained a dwelling until about 1920, when the first floor was converted for business with an apartment above. The present occupant of the store is Henry & Johnson, Inc., and the building is owned by Shattuck Realty, Inc.

KEENE GAS Co. BUILDING-40 Washington Street. Eliphalet Briggs sold his house to Daniel Adams and William S. Briggs in 1846, and Dr. Adams sold his half to Briggs the following year. F. W. Beckley purchased the property in 1866. The dwelling remained until about 1950, when the main house was torn down and a modern two-story block was erected. The ground floor is occupied by a barber shop and the office and salesroom of the Keene Gas Co. The old wooden ell is still standing in the rear and is used as a store and dwelling.

STREETER BLOCK-10-12 Vernon Street. This three-story brick block was built in 1901 by Mrs. Francis A. Corey and was known for years as the Corey Block. The first floor was used as a grocery store for about 50 years, Bernard Streeter being the last proprietor. The first floor is now occupied by an automatic laundry, and there are apartments above. The building is owned by Streeter.

CITY HALL-1-13 Washington Street. A blacksmith shop stood on this site before 1800. A house was located here when John G. Bond acquired the property in 1807. There were several owners up to the time Justus Perry bought the house and wheelwright shop in 1821. The town purchased the lot and buildings in 1848 and erected the main part of the present City Hall. The belfry and tower were added in 1864. City Hall was enlarged and remodeled several times through the years, the last time in 1960 when the roof was lowered, the second floor auditorium rebuilt into rooms and the exterior modernized. For many years stores occupied the ground floor along with the town offices, and at one time the town library was located in the building.

KNOWLTON & STONE BLOCK-11-12 Central Square. A small wooden building stood on this lot and was used for the post office from 1861-65. Frank L. Sprague sold to M. T. Tottingham & Co. in 1868. Charles H. Stone bought the block in 1883. Stone was a partner of Knowlton &

Stone, a hardware store established at this location a few years before the block was erected. The store remained here for almost three-quarters of a century. The present owner is Irving Sheinfeld, who operates the Square Drug Store on the ground floor.

BRIDGMAN BLOCK-8-10 Central Square. In 1800 David Forbes had a law office at this site. The Lamson Building, a wooden structure which stood on the corner of Roxbury Street and Central Square, was moved here in 1827. This building was used for business until it was destroyed by fire on February 6, 1862. The land was purchased by Charles Bridgman in 1865, and the following year he erected the present building. The block is still in the Bridgman family, the present owner being Ruth Bridgman Buckley.



Stone's Block—Bridgman's Block—Colony's Block

COLONY BLOCK-4-8 Central Square. In 1799 Amasa Allen bought land from Dr. Thomas Edwards and erected a store which was occupied by Allen & Bond. Justus Perry came from Marlborough in the fall of 1812, and the next spring took "the large store building opposite the meetinghouse," previously occupied by Sparhawk & Davis, successors to John G. Bond. Perry acquired the property in 1815 and carried on a successful business there for many years. As business increased, Perry enlarged the store by building a brick front and making two stores. Robert C. Shelly and George G. Sawyer bought the Perry store in 1858. Shelly & Sawyer sold 18 feet on the south side of their lot to the Colony brothers, proprietors of the Cheshire Mills

in Harrisville. In 1859 Shelly & Sawyer replaced the old Perry store with a three-story brick block. At the same time the Colonys built their adjoining block, which had an ornamental iron front, painted white. The lower floor was of marble. Shelly & Sawyer sold to Henry and Alfred T. Colony in 1864. These buildings were destroyed in the fire of October 20, 1865. The Colonys rebuilt on the site in 1870, and the block is still owned by their heirs.

BANK BLOCK-1-3 Central Square. Phineas Fiske erected a frame building here in 1815 for a store and office. Fiske sold to Foster Alexander in 1816, and Alexander sold to William Lamson the following year. In 1827 Lamson replaced his store with a three-story brick block, which had one of the first halls in town for public use. Lamson sold his block in 1851 to George H. Richards, and Richards established his watch and jewelry business in the corner store. The disastrous fire that swept the east side of Central Square in 1865 originated in the Richards Block. The present Bank Block was erected in 1870, along with the new Colony Block. After the fire of 1934 the 5-story building was remodeled; two upper floors were removed. Today the Cheshire County Savings Bank occupies the ground floor, offices are located on the second, and apartments on the third floor. The building is owned by the bank.



East side of Central Square, showing Bank Block

CHESHIRE HOUSE BLOCK-2-18 Main Street and 9-23 Roxbury Street. Site of the famed Cheshire House. Lemuel Chandler built and opened a tavern on this site in October 1788, as appears from the following advertisement from the *New Hampshire Recorder and the Weekly Advertiser* of October 27, 1788: "NEW TAVERN. The subscriber begs leave to inform the public that he has opened a new Tavern nearly opposite the Meetinghouse in Keene at the Sign of the Lyon and the Brazen Ball, and invites all Gentlemen, Ladies and Travellers to favour him with their company, flattering himself that his attendance, conveniences and accommodations will meet their approbation. The smallest favour will be gratefully acknowledged by their humble servant LEMUEL CHANDLER." In Simon G. Griffin's *A History of The Town of Keene*, reference is made to Chandler's "Sign of the Lyon and the Blue Ball." However, this wording appears only in the first advertisement, and in subsequent insertions "brazen" is substituted for "blue." As some colors were difficult to obtain in those days, it seems likely that Chandler was obliged to give up his first idea from inability to secure the desired color. Chandler died in December 1789, and the property changed hands several times up to the time it burned to the ground on May 27, 1822. Elijah Parker and Timothy Hall erected a new brick building known as the Phoenix Hotel and operated by George Sparhawk. John Hatch bought the hotel in 1825 and ran the business for some time. E. W. Boyden was the innkeeper when fire destroyed the building on April 6, 1836. The following year a company of Keene businessmen built the Cheshire House. In 1838 John Wood and A. & T. Hall obtained possession of the property south of the Cheshire House and replaced the old frame building with a brick block. These two properties changed hands several times until 1859, when Henry Pond acquired the two buildings and joined them together to form a larger hotel. He did extensive remodeling, added a public hall in the south wing, and the whole became known as the Cheshire Block. Pond sold in 1863, and a few years later the property came into the possession of Morgan J. Sherman, who ran the hotel for several years. In 1875 the old wooden ell of the Cheshire House was removed, and a new wooden block was built along the smith side of Roxbury Street. This addition was destroyed by fire in August 1883, and the present east wing was erected soon afterward. Charles Hartwell came to Keene in June 1891 and took over the Cheshire House, which had been closed for nearly three years. He did considerable renovating and rebuilt the south wing. In May 1902 Judson A. Reynolds became the proprietor and was the last to operate the hotel.

Gorfinkle & Barkin, Boston real estate investors, leased the property in 1928 from Mrs. Alice Haywood Ellis. The old hotel (excluding the Roxbury Street wing) was torn down in 1934, and a modern one-story business block was erected. In 1964 the heirs of Gorfinkle & Barkin relinquished the lease, and the property reverted to the heirs of Mrs. Ellis.

KRESGE BLOCK-20 Main Street. A modern two-story block built on the site of the south wing of the old Cheshire House and erected shortly after the old building was demolished in 1934. The S. S. Kresge Co. store operated here for 30 years. This has now been changed to the Jupiter Discount Store.



Cheshire House Block

E. F. LANE BLOCK-26-32 Main Street. The brick buildings erected by Elisha F. Lane on land between the Cheshire House and Church Street. The site of the northerly building was purchased by Thomas Wells in 1786 and he built a small store and shop. Noah Cooke acquired the property in 1806 from James Mann and John Wood, and two years later erected a two-and-one-half-story wooden building. Cooke, a lawyer, maintained his office in the building and rented the remainder for residential purposes. On July 1, 1858, the property was sold to Brigham Nims of Roxbury for \$8,000, and he remodeled the building into two stores. Elisha F. Lane bought the property in 1890 from Nims and built the present brick block. Lane added extensions to the east end of the block in 1899 and 1901. Silas Ames was keeping a

saddler's shop in 1812 on the site of the south wing of the Lane Block. In 1816 William Lamson sold the land and buildings to Samuel Wood Jr. Wood had his dwelling here and established a bakery in the building which continued in business, though under different management, until about 1900. Wood sold in 1851 to Asa Duren and Peter B. Hayward, and in 1855 Hayward became the sole owner. Peter Hayward's heirs conveyed the property to George O. Hayward in 1882, and three years later he sold to N. G. Gurnsey & Sons. The Gurnseys sold to Elisha Lane in 1900 and moved to the adjoining lot on Church Street. Lane built the present block in 1901. The two blocks were badly damaged by fire in 1934. Stores occupy the ground floor, professional offices are on the second, and apartments are on the third floor.

GURNSEY BLOCK-16 Church Street. N. G. Gurnsey & Sons sold their property fronting on Main Street and erected a new bakery on this site in 1900. The brick building replaced an old wooden structure. Gurnsey Brothers & Co. operated their bakery here for many years and were celebrated for their specialty, Keene Crackers. After the bakery was discontinued, the company specialized in the wholesale candy and tobacco business. A few years ago the business closed, and Laplant Moving & Storage Co. occupied the building.

DUFFY BLOCK-30-43 Church Street. A brick block consisting of two sections, the eastern section built more than 100 years ago. John M. Duffy established a shoe store in the western section in 1887 and was in business here for over 60 years. Miss Anna Duffy also operated a millinery shop here for several years. Arthur E. O'Neil purchased this section in 1957 from the Duffy heirs. The O'Neils kept a curtain and drapery shop here for a time (now located on Main Street) and now use the store for an arts and crafts studio. Fred A. Aldrin bought the easterly section in 1955 and operates Fred's Fixit Shop on the premises.

WOOLWORTH BUILDING-44-50 Main Street. In 1812 a narrow, high wooden building occupied the site and was used as a tin shop. Later Colonel Thomas F. Ames kept a saddler's shop here. The Keene Congregational Society (Unitarian) bought the lot from Wood & Hall and erected the first Unitarian meetinghouse in Keene in 1829-30. About this time Ames built a two-and-one-half-story brick building south of the church. The church was enlarged and remodeled in

1867-68. A tower with a tall spire was added, and a clock with four dials was placed in it. The last service held there was on January 28, 1894. The Unitarians sold to Elisha F. Lane that year, and the church was demolished. Lane built a four-story brick building on the site, and this block housed several businesses and many families through the 70 years that it stood. The Woolworth Co., which has occupied the site for over 50 years, recently erected a two-story building. The new building was extended east on Church Street and took in the Redfield Block, which was demolished at the time. The Redfield Block was first known as the Searles' Block. It was fitted out as an armory in 1877 and used for a time by the Keene Light Guard. The Block stood several feet south of the line of the street at the rear of two dwellings, which were used in part for business purposes. The two dwellings were afterward moved to the corner of Church and Carpenter Streets, where they now stand. Searles' Block was then moved northerly to the line of the street and raised one story. For many years the building was known as Petts' Block. Keene's first daily newspaper, the *Daily Tribune*, was located here from its establishment on June 15, 1889, until it was discontinued on September 8, 1890.

NEWBERRY BLOCK-60-72 Main Street. In 1797 Moses Johnson bought from Luther Eames the land and buildings standing here and occupied them as a dwelling and store. Samuel Dinsmoor moved here in 1798, and three years later bought the property. Dinsmoor and his son Samuel both served as governor of the state for three terms. The younger Samuel was born in this house. Dinsmoor sold in 1828 to Collins H. Jaquith, reserving his law office building, which stood where the railroad tracks are now. This building was later moved to 320 Roxbury Street and is now part of the dwelling there. Jaquith sold the north part of the lot to Thomas F. Ames, who erected and occupied a brick building later known as Baker's Block. In 1836 Jaquith sold the remaining property to John Towns. Eliphalet Briggs purchased the Ames and Towns properties in 1846 after fire destroyed his shop on Washington Street, and soon afterwards moved his cabinet business to the Ames building. The south part of the lot, except a driveway 20 feet wide where Railroad Street is now, was sold to the Cheshire Railroad. In 1863 and 1868 the heirs of Briggs sold both properties, and in 1894 N. G. Gurnsey & Sons acquired the property, removed the buildings, and built the north part of the present block, and the following year the south part. Keene bricks were

used for the buildings, with trimmings of New Hampshire granite. The J. J. Newberry Co. bought the property in 1927 and opened a store on the ground floor the following year. For years the second floor was used for offices, and the remaining two floors for lodgings. The J. J. Newberry Co. closed in June 1966, and the building was put up for sale.

SIMON'S BLOCK-82 Main Street. William Smeed built his house here in 1754 on house lot No. 27. In 1761 Lieutenant Benjamin Hall bought six house lots from Smeed and is supposed to have lived in the Smeed house. Hall was a large landowner in Keene. His son Ziba kept a tavern here and was succeeded by Aaron and Luther Eames. Benjamin Hall's daughter Betty married Major Luther Eames. George W. Sturtevant's 1800 map of Keene records Ziba Hall as owning the property. In 1813 Dr. Amos Twitchell bought the property, and later it was occupied by him and by Dr. George B. Twitchell. Dr. Twitchell's house incorporated a portion of the original Smeed house. Dr. Amos Twitchell died in 1850, and his nephew, Dr. George Twitchell, sold the house in 1874 to the Cheshire Railroad and the following year moved to his new home on Roxbury Street (part of the present YMCA). The old Twitchell house was moved back to Cypress Street, where it stood for many years, and was used as an office and sales-room by a lumber company. Two workmen were killed while preparing the house for moving. The railroad built an engine house on the site. After the abandonment of the building by the railroad, Perley F. Safford kept a garage on the premises for several years. The M. H. Fishman Co. built the present building and moved there from 44 Main Street. Louis Simon purchased the building when the Fishman Co. closed out its business, and remodeled the building, recently moving the Simon Jewelry Store here from Central Square. The building also contains a clothing store and offices.

KEENE CO-OPERATIVE BANK BUILDING-100 Main Street. Site of the Baker-Wright house. This large rambling building was long a landmark on Main Street and was for a time used as a lodging house. The bank purchased the land in January 1960 and soon afterward built the present structure, moving here from its West Street location.

MACLAUGHLIN BLOCK-102-106 Main Street. Dr. Amos Twitchell built a hospital on this site in the 1830's, a large brick building containing 24 rooms. Patients came from all over New England and more

distant places for surgical treatment. The 1871-72 directory lists Isaac Aldrich, sheriff and auctioneer, as residing here. The Merriam family held the property for many years, and the building came to be called the Merriam House. J. M. Sweeney was the proprietor in 1910, and shortly afterward Frank C. Pike and Fred O. Whipple moved their furniture store here from the rear of the Lamson Block. **Pike & Whipple** built the Scenic Theater in 1914 on the lot south of their store. The Merriam house was demolished, and the north part of the present block was built in 1957 by Edward J. and Mildred MacLaughlin (daughter of Fred Whipple). The theater was torn down in 1966, and the south part of the present block was erected. The building is owned by the MacLaughlins.

EAGLE HOTEL BLocK-108-120 Main Street. Captain William Wyman, son of Colonel Isaac Wyman, in 1804 built the three-story brick building now the southerly part of the Eagle Hotel Block. Wyman and Daniel Chapman opened a store here with a general assortment of goods. Luther Smith, Keene's famed clockmaker, built the north part of the present hotel, a two-story brick building. A driveway between the tavern and Wyman's store led to the stables in the rear. Horace Wells, who was at the Ralston Tavern, took over the new hotel and opened for business on May 1, 1806. Two years later he sold to Benoni Shirliff and went back to the Ralston. Shirliff kept the tavern for 15 years and then sold to Colonel Stephen Harrington of Nelson. Harrington made improvements and called his establishment Harrington's Coffee House. On December 14, 1825, fire struck the south building, then owned by Harrington and occupied by him as a leather store. Early discovery of the blaze prevented serious damage.

In 1827 Harrington remodeled the tavern and changed the name to the Eagle Hotel. At this time a very elaborate swing sign painted by Charles Ingalls, a leading local ornamental painter of the time, was erected in front of the hotel. This sign was surmounted with a carved, gilded eagle made by Amos Holbrook of Keene, then an apprentice of Abijah Wilder. After a number of years the swing sign was removed, and the eagle was mounted on a tall pillar and placed at the sidewalk line north of the hotel, where it stood for many years. The eagle was sold at auction on the Square on January 3, 1883, for \$102.50. This historic relic is now preserved by the Historical Society of Cheshire County.

On the morning of August 6, 1836, fire destroyed the stables and outbuildings in the rear of the hotel and store, though the main build-

ings, along with the Wheeler house to the south, sustained little damage. Colonel Harrington lost a valuable horse and A. Flower & Co., proprietors of the Fitchburg stage line, lost four horses and harnesses. The fire forced John H. Fuller to seek new quarters for his wool business, which had been carried on in the south building. The Eagle Hotel was improved and enlarged by the addition of another story and annexation of the store to the south by building in the space between. Colonel Harrington died in 1847 and was succeeded by his son Asaph who kept an excellent house until his death on May 26, 1867. John A. Wright and Andrew R. Mason acquired the property, and a short time later Mason became the sole owner.

The hotel changed hands a number of times until 1909, when Daniel E. O'Neil and James R. White became landlords. O'Neil became the sole owner two years later and made a number of improvements over the next 38 years. On O'Neil's death in 1947 the O'Neil family formed a corporation and continued the hotel until they sold to Isadore Borofsky & Son in December 1952. Borofsky lowered the floors to street level, and stores now occupy what was once the lobby, dining rooms, and kitchen.

PANANIDES OR BLOOMER BLOCK-147 Main Street. Built in 1926, it houses stores, an office, and apartments. It was purchased by Carl R. Bloomer in 1947.

HOTEL ELLIS-109 Main Street. In the 18th century Keene's jail, a crude affair of hewn logs, stood near this site until moved to what is now the southerly corner of Mechanic and Washington Streets in 1785. Ralston & Bond (Alexander Ralston Jr. and William M. Bond) built a brick store block in 1808, which now forms the north part of the present hotel. A singing school was conducted for a time on the upper floor. The hotel was built in the 1830's and was first called the Workingmen's Hotel, kept by Elias Whitney. It was also referred to as Whitney's Inn. On January 11, 1837, over 50 teams brought Dublin people on a sleigh ride to Keene. After parading around the streets, the group concluded the joyful time with a dinner at the hotel. That year the name of the hotel was changed to Emerald House. In 1860 the hotel was operating under the name Union House and was kept by G. A. Goddard, who was succeeded by Ashley Jones, John W. Starkey, who operated the hotel as the American House, sold to L. W. Cummings on July 31, 1874, and the establishment then went under the name of City Hotel. There were other operators up to the

time Calvin H. Ellis, a Keene businessman, bought the hotel in 1904 and gave it its present name. Alexander D. Grant became the proprietor before World War I and carried on the business for several years. During this time the hotel was thoroughly renovated and enlarged. The late Max Georges ran the hotel for many years and was well known for his hospitality. He was followed by the Bell family, which operated the hotel until it came under the present management of Arthur Olson Jr. and Howard B. Lane, Keene attorneys.

EXCHANGE BLOCK-99-105 Main Street. The armory of the Keene Light Guard Infantry was located here in the early 1800's. A livery business was carried on at this site for many years, including that of Laton Martin, who lived next door. Elisha F. Lane built the present brick block in 1908. The telephone exchange was moved here in April 1908 and remained for almost 50 years. The building houses both businesses and apartments.

COLONIAL BLOCK-89-97 Main Street. The house of Peleg Sprague, built about 1793, stood on this site. Sprague came to Keene in 1787 to practice law, and was elected to Congress in 1797 and 1799. A small building housing his law office stood at the northeasterly corner of his lot. Rev. Nathaniel Sprague, son of Peleg, once kept a school in this office. Sometime after the death of Sprague in 1800, Samuel Dinsmoor bought the house and moved here from the east side of Main Street. Dinsmoor died here in 1835. Laton Martin and his wife lived here for many years, and later the house was used for lodgers, becoming known as the Colonial Inn during the last few years of its existence. The house was removed in 1923 by Charles Baldwin when the present Colonial Theater was erected. The building houses stores, offices, and apartments, as well as the moving picture theater, and is owned by D. Latchis, Inc.

ED BERGERON'S CLOTHING STORE-87 Main Street. A brick house built by Samuel Dinsmoor and the residence of his son William until his removal to Washington Street in 1880. Peleg Sprague's law office building stood on this site. The Doukas family carried on a restaurant here for many years, residing on the upper floor. The building was converted to a store, and now houses the clothing store of Edgar F. Bergeron.

CRYSTAL RESTAURANT-81 Main Street. This is one of the oldest buildings still standing in Keene. Asa Dunbar, clergyman and lawyer, bought here in 1785 from Aaron Eames and built a tavern. This was part of original house lot No. 28. Dunbar was the father of Cynthia, born in Keene in 1787, who became the mother of Henry David Thoreau, the naturalist. Dunbar died on June 22, 1787, and his widow carried on the tavern until 1795, when she sold to Daniel Watson. Watson was a saddler and manufacturer of military equipment and leather goods. He lived here until his death in 1837. Samuel Robinson acquired the house and lot in 1839, and sold two years later to John H. Fuller. The Cheshire Railroad purchased the property in 1846, and held it for many years. Various tenants occupied the premises during that time. At the turn of the century the Marrion family was living here and operating a restaurant, later moving their business to 95 Main Street. The Houpis family has operated the Crystal Restaurant for about 40 years. The restaurant was recently redecorated, and a brick addition was built on the north side housing Medical Hall, Inc., druggists..

BOROFSKY BLOCK-49-55 ¹/₂ Main Street. For over a half-century this block was known as the *Sentinel* Building. James Wells kept a hat store near this site in 1806. That year John G. Bond bought the land from Josiah Richardson. In 1811, or soon afterward, a frame building was erected and was occupied by Henry and Thomas Lyman, hatters, called Lyman's Hat Store. Bond sold to Daniel Adams in 1818. John Towns, blacksmith, contractor, and builder, bought the property in 1825, and operated a blacksmith shop on the premises. The frame building standing on the lot was moved to what is now 134 Main Street. (Moved again soon after 1900, it now stands at 56 South Street.) Towns built a two-story brick store which was occupied by Sylvester Haskell, merchant, and many years later by Davis & Wright. A stairway on the north side of the building led to the second floor. Benaiah Cooke opened a school in March 1827 in a room over Haskell's store and continued it for several terms. The building burned in November 1829 and was immediately rebuilt. On September 14, 1830, Alonzo Andrews opened a private school which he ran for a few terms. Towns sold his property in 1834 to Grosvenor Brooks, who sold the following year to Heaton, Anderson & Metcalf. The Cheshire Railroad acquired the property in 1846 from Dexter Anderson. The YMCA bought the property from the railroad in 1890, and two years later sold it to the Sentinel Printing Co. Towns' brick block was torn down, and the present

block was erected in 1893 by the Sentinel Printing Co., which moved here on October 7 of that year. The Sentinel remained here until 1930. Borofsky Brothers, Inc. bought the property in 1945. They renovated the outside and the first floor in 1966. G. H. Tilden & Co., located on the Square for over 140 years, moved to the ground floor of this block in 1966. Offices and apartments are located on the upper floors.

BRUDER BLOCK-47 Main Street. In February 1814 a long, narrow wooden building standing on the site of the present Bruder and Latchis Blocks was destroyed by fire. The building was occupied by shops, Samuel Wood, the baker, and Abijah Kingsbury's shoemaking business, and was owned jointly by Kingsbury and William Lamson. Abijah Kingsbury erected a new building, housing both his family and his business. Kingsbury and his sons Charles and George and his son-in-law, George Rising, carried on the shoe business at this site for more than 70 years. In 1885 a third story was added to the building, which was then used for commercial purposes only, and was known as Kingsbury's Block. The property remained in the Kingsbury family until 1901, when the heirs sold to William P. Chamberlain, who also bought a small piece of land at the rear from the Lamson heirs. In 1904 Chamberlain bought on the west side of Central Square and sold his Main Street holdings to Alex S. Bruder. The wooden block was torn down in 1910, when the present block was erected. Bruder carried on a bakery, restaurant, and ice-cream parlor in the building. The block is now owned by the Booras family, who operated a restaurant on the ground floor for many years.

LATCHIS BLOCK-33-43 Main Street. The present block was long known as the Lamson Block. William Lamson acquired the lot from Noah Cooke. Lamson built a dwelling on the site, replacing the Lamson & Kingsbury building that burned in 1814. The house, of the salt-box style, was later used for commercial purposes, until moved to the rear in 1877, when the present block was erected. The old building, again used as a dwelling, was finally taken down about 1903. Charles L. Griffin and others (heirs to the Lamson estate) sold the block and land to the west to Henry Swan in 1920. Swan sold the Lamson Block to Demetrius Latchis in 1922, and the following year Latchis built the Latchis Theater. The building is owned by D. Latchis, Inc. and houses both businesses and apartments.

WHIPPLE BLOCK-25-29¹/₂ Main Street. The three-story wooden

Lamson store built early in the 19th century stood on this site. William Lamson's tannery, established in 1787, was located in the rear. The present block was erected in 1882, and was first occupied by the Keene Five Cents Saving Bank. The heirs of the Lamson estate sold to Henry Swan in 1920 and Swan sold to Fred O. Whipple soon afterward. A jewelry store occupied the first floor for many years, and it is now the location of Beedle's Music Store. In recent years a new addition was built on the rear extending to Federal Street. Karl Beedle now owns the block.

CHESHIRE NATIONAL BANK BUILDING-15-23 Main Street. The Cheshire National Bank, organized in 1804 as the Cheshire Bank, is Keene's oldest. Its original headquarters were in a 30 x 24 foot building located on the west side of Main Street, where the railroad track now runs. The bank moved to 15-17 Main Street in 1847. In the early 19th century a small wooden building stood on the site of the bank. Elijah Parker's law office was located here, and later the law office of Levi Chamberlain. George Tilden and John Prentiss formed a partnership in the book-binding and book and stationery business in 1823, and occupied the building for a time. The Cheshire Provident Institution was organized in 1833, with George Tilden as treasurer, and the bank was located in this store. The Cheshire Bank sold its building to the railroad in 1846 and bought this site from John Wood and A. & T. Hall. The following year the old wooden building was removed and the bank erected a new two-story building. In 1886 a third story was added to the bank building and other alterations were made. Another addition was made to the rear of the building in 1896. The bank put a new front on the building and made other improvements in 1924. About three years ago the bank purchased the Tierney Block, next south, and the Federal Street Building in the rear. Both blocks were demolished, and the Tierney site was used for expansion of the building, and the Federal Street site was made into a parking lot and an exit for the drive-in window service. In 1967 the bank acquired the Whitney Block at 21-23 Main Street, tore down the block, and erected another addition to its building.

TIERNEY BLOCK-19 Main Street. This brick building was recently demolished by the Cheshire National Bank. Henry Pond sold this lot in 1855 to the Cheshire County Bank which had just been organized, and a two-story brick building was erected. The bank was reorganized in 1865 as the Keene National Bank. A third story was added to the build-

ing in 1885. The Keene National Bank sold its building in 1895 to John C. Tierney and moved to the east side of Main Street.

WHITNEY BLOCK-21-23 Main Street. This three-story brick building was demolished in 1967 by the Cheshire National Bank, and a new addition to the bank was constructed. Daniel Watson bought land here from Josiah Richardson in 1792, and built a shop for his saddler business. In 1838 John Wood and A. & T. Hall bought the old Watson shop from Salma Hale, executor of the will of Daniel Watson. The shop burned in 1854. The firm of A. & T. Hall failed in business in 1850, and Henry Pond bought the land from Lewis Campbell, the assignee. Pond built a two-story brick building about 1855, and four years later he sold the block to Stephen L. Randall. In 1865 Randall conveyed a half interest to Leonard Wright, and Wright later acquired full ownership. The block was remodeled and a third story was added in 1894. In 1921 the heirs of Leonard Wright sold the block to Roy V. Whitney.

BUFFUM BLOCK-5-9 Main Street. Moses Johnson built a wooden store building on this site about 1790. In 1802 Johnson sold the property to Daniel Watson, James Mann, and John Wood. Watson soon sold his interest to his partners, and the firm of Mann & Wood was formed, occupying the Johnson store. Mann & Wood sold their interest to John Wood and Aaron and Timothy Hall in 1815, and A. & T. Hall succeeded that firm in the store, where they continued in business for about 45 years. The Halls failed in business in 1850, and Henry Pond acquired the property in 1855. Caleb T. Buffum bought the Moses Johnson building in 1860 from Pond. In 1890 the old wooden building was taken down, and the present block was erected by Buffum. In the attic of the old building many belts, canteens, cartridge boxes, plumes, and knapsacks, formerly used by the old Keene Light Infantry, were found. The knapsacks were especially interesting, as they had been taken from a British ship captured near Boston in the War of 1812; at the outbreak of the Civil War, Company A, Second New Hampshire Infantry, had left Keene equipped with these old knapsacks because of a shortage of regular equipment. On their arrival at Portsmouth the regulation knapsacks were supplied and the old ones were returned to Keene. In 1926 Reginald F. Howe, heir of the Caleb T. Buffum estate, sold the block to John Elliot.

ST. JOHN'S BLOCK—corner of West and Main Streets. This block is also referred to as the Elliot Block. Captain Josiah Richardson erected a

wooden store building on this site in 1773. About the same time he built a new dwelling and tavern a short distance to the west (where the Ashuelot National Bank now stands). In 1814 Aaron Appleton came from Dublin and formed a partnership with John Elliot. They bought the old Richardson store and lot, formerly occupied by Allen & Dorr and others, and in 1815 erected the present block, a brick building two stories high. The same year Appleton & Elliot sold 33 feet from the west end of their lot (which then extended to the land of William Lamson) to A. & T. Hall, who built a brick dwelling thereon soon afterward. The old wooden building was removed to Court Street, and a second story was added. It was the residence of Don H. Woodward, 151 Court Street, until he built a new house in 1891, and the building was moved to 37 Woodburn Street. Amos C. Greely bought the brick dwelling in 1855 after the firm of A. & T. Hall failed in business. An alley separating the Appleton & Elliot building from the Hall-Greely dwelling later became known as Diphthong Alley, which ran from 11 Main Street to 16 West Street. The Greely dwelling was later converted to a store which was often referred to as the "Bon Marche." Greely sold in 1857 to John H. Elliot. In 1860 the St. John's Block was remodeled, another story was added, and the upper floor was occupied by the Masonic lodges. The block was again remodeled in 1868, when another story was added and St. John's Hall was enlarged for the use of the Masons. In 1915 the Elliots built the Federal Street Building (recently torn down by the Cheshire National Bank). At that time Diphthong Alley was filled in, connecting the two West Street Elliot buildings. St. John's Block was recently remodeled and the roof lowered. A monogram, made up of the initial letters of the firm of Appleton & Elliot, has long appeared on the north wall of the St. John's Block, along with the dates 1815-1915. The property is still owned by the Elliot family.

CHASE'S BLOCK-20-22 West Street. Also known as the Nims Block. Charles L. Griffin and others sold the lot at the corner of West and Federal Streets to Fred C. and Louis A. Nims in 1910. The following year the Nims brothers built a four-story brick block for stores and offices. The Nims brothers had carried on a grocery and provisions store next door for many years, and they now moved their business to the new block. In the 1920's Balch Brothers (Clayton E. and Arthur H.) succeeded to the business. Albert H. Chase, owner of Chase's, moved here in 1938 from 18 West Street. Chase bought the block in 1946 from the Nims heirs. Chase's occupies the first and second floors, and four apartments are located on the third and fourth floors.

ASHUELOT NATIONAL BANK BUILDING-33 West Street. This is the site of Captain Josiah Richardson's dwelling house and tavern built in 1773, the building remaining here about 120 years. Richardson died in 1820, and the real estate passed to his daughter and son-in-law, Abigail (Rebecca) and Joseph Dorr. In 1839 the Dorr-Richardson homestead was conveyed to Harriet Keyes Evans, wife of Nathaniel Evans. She died in 1842, and the property was sold to Zebediah (Kise) Keyes. Keyes sold the homestead in 1846 to Harvey A. Bill, reserving the north part of the lot on Winter Street on which he built the brick house still standing at 16 Winter Street. In 1891 J. Fred Whitcomb, administrator of the estate of Mrs. Harvey A. Bill, sold to Charles L. Russell. The following year Russell sold to the YMCA. The Richardson Tavern was torn down and the YMCA building was erected. The Ashuelot National Bank (formerly Ashuelot-Citizens National Bank) bought the property, demolished the YMCA building, and in 1961-62 erected a new bank building.

HOWE BLOCK-19-25 West Street. Charles Sturtevant bought from Keyes & Colony (Elbridge Keyes and Joshua D. Colony) the west part of their store lot in 1840, and Sturtevant erected a building which stood until 1927. In 1844 James B. Elliot bought the property and sold to John W. Prentiss in 1856. Prentiss sold to Francis E. Keyes in 1860, and Keyes conveyed the land and buildings to Orville H. Gillett in 1867. Gillett, a dealer in stoves and tinware, operated a store here until he was succeeded by Kirk & Sewall (Reuben S. Kirk and William J. Sewall). In 1880 the store and lot were sold to Fisher (James B. Fisher), Kirk & Sewall. Fisher's daughter sold the property to F. A. Putnam & Co. in 1922. George J. Doucoumes, who operated the Elm City Restaurant on the premises, bought from Putnam in 1925. Reginald F. Howe bought the property from Doucoumes in 1927, demolished the old building, and erected the present block. The Keene Co-operative Bank acquired the block from Howe, held the property for a short time, and sold to Theodore S. Barton, who is the present owner. The block contains stores, offices, and apartments.

KEENE SAVINGS BANK BLOCK-47-51 Central Square. This block was known for years as both the Russell Block and Ashuelot-Citizens National Bank Block. Elbridge Keyes and Joshua D. Colony bought the lot in 1833 and erected a three-story brick building, afterwards known as the Keyes Block. Keyes & Colony conducted a dry goods store here until the partnership was dissolved in 1844. The Keyes family carried

on the store here for many years, for a time under the name of Keyes & Stratton. Charles L. Russell bought the property in 1895, replacing the old Keyes Block with a four-story brick building. The post office was located here from 1896 to 1911. The Ashuelot-Citizens National Bank bought the block in 1924 and remained in business here until 1962, when it moved to a new building at 33 West Street. The Keene Savings Bank purchased the block in 1962 and moved here from their quarters next door. Offices and apartments are located on the upper floors.

KEENE SAVING BANK BLOCK-46-47 Central Square. In 1833 the Ashuelot Bank bought land from Keyes & Colony and erected a two-story brick building for its quarters. The bank remodeled its building and added a third story in 1886. The Keene Savings Bank bought the block in 1924, when the Ashuelot-Citizens National Bank bought the Russell Block and moved next door. A new front and other improvements were added in 1925. The Keene Savings Bank purchased the Ashuelot-Citizens National Bank Block in 1962 and has expanded, now using both buildings.



Keyes' Block late 1880's

SMITH BLOCK-43-45 Central Square. Known through the years as the Prentiss or Whitcomb Block. In 1799 John Prentiss established the *New Hampshire Sentinel*. In 1823 he formed a partnership with George Tilden. In 1825 Prentiss built the brick block on the west side of the Common. Later he dissolved the Tilden partnership and established the Keene Book Store. The *Keene Sentinel* remained in business at the Prentiss Block for 46 years. Whitcomb & Dunbar's (Elbridge G. Whitcomb and John D. Dunbar) men's clothing store was established here in 1843, and continued as J. F. & F. H. Whitcomb Men's Store,

then as J. F. Whitcomb Men's Store. In 1929 it became Fay M. Smith Store, and in 1945 ownership of the block was conveyed to Fay M. Smith by the heirs of J. F. Whitcomb. Smith's store and Howe's jewelry store are located on the first floor, offices on the second, and apartments on the third.



Smith Block at the turn of the century

CHAMBERLAIN BLOCK-39-42 Central Square. Samuel A. Gerould bought land from Joseph Dorr and his wife in 1824, and the following year erected a brick building. He established his business in the new block, where he remained about 50 years. In 1828 Gerould bought more land from Dorr in the rear of his block and in the rear of the Court House then standing on the south side of what is now Winter Street. He built a brick house (where he lived) and subsequently moved a frame building to the lot, which was used as a dwelling and shop. In 1835 John Prentiss sold Gerould a strip of land, and Gerould extended his block south to fill the passageway that formerly separated the buildings. Gerould acquired the south half of the Court House which adjoined his block in 1857, and remodeled the building, adding a fourth floor. William P. Chamberlain & Co. bought the Gerould property on Central Square and Winter Street in 1904 from the heirs of Samuel Gerould and erected the present block. The Chamberlain store was a well-known establishment in Keene for many years. Sears, Roebuck & Co.

has occupied the old Chamberlain store since 1933, and recently expanded its floor space. The Block was recently sold to Fred Fletcher by the Chamberlain heirs.

BULLARD & SHEDD BLOCK-37-38 Central Square. The Court House, which originally stood on the Common, was moved to this site in 1808. The following year Josiah Richardson conveyed to Cheshire County the lot to which the Court House had been moved with the condition that it must never be used for any other purpose. The old Court House, moved here in 1808, was moved again, and a new brick Court House and Town Hall was built in 1824 on the site. Joseph Dorr and his wife Abigail (Rebecca) gave a deed of the land to the county with the same condition as was contained in the former lease: that it should never be used for any other purpose. In 1840 the county bought from Henry Coolidge a small lot on the north corner of Winter and Court Streets (site of the present Court House) and erected a granite building for county offices and records. Joseph Dorr and his wife gave to Henry Coolidge a quitclaim deed of the land on which the Court House stood. In 1848 the heirs of Coolidge sold their interest in the Court House lot to Samuel Wood. The county enlarged the county record lot in 1857 by purchasing land on the northwest side from Abijah Wilder. The main part of the present Court House was built during this and the following year on the site of the former records building. Selden F. White and Amos L. Wood, executors of the will of Samuel Wood, who held a quitclaim deed of the premises formerly given by Joseph Dorr and his wife, secured title to the building from the court and sold the south half of the land and building to Samuel Gerould. Dauphin W. Buckminster bought the north half of the old Court House and lot in 1860 from White and Wood. In 1867 Buckminster sold to E. N. and L. W. Cummings, and they sold to Farnum F. Lane four years later. Lane was a lawyer in Keene, and the building was known for years as Lane's Block. Charles G. Shedd, owner of Bullard & Shedd, bought the property in 1926 from the heirs of Lane. Bullard & Shedd, Keene's oldest drug store (established in 1840 by John Bixby) has been at this location for many years. The building remains in substantially the same form outside as it was originally built in 1824.