

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. 03347.000621
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: WALTER H. DUFFY DATE: July 18th 1983

YOUR ADDRESS: 82 MAIN ST TELEPHONE: 891-2140

ORGANIZATION (if any): Historic Saranac Lake

***** - Samuel Gaimony - *****

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Wilson's, KENDALL PHARMACY - Delamater's
- 2. COUNTY: FRANKLIN TOWN/CITY: Harrietstown VILLAGE: SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 82 MAIN ST.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Wilson Clin Co. ADDRESS: 82 MAIN ST.
- 6. USE: Original: PHARMACY Present: RETAIL CLOTHING
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain 1st floor business

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
100 ADDITION - NEW FRONT - 1960



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
- In the Berkeley Square Historic District.
18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1891
- ARCHITECT: _____
- BUILDER: Dr. Frank E. Kendall, owner.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

SEE ATTACHED.

21. SOURCES: Franklin County Clerk's records, Malone, N.Y.

22. THEME: Pioneer Health Resort

The Wilson Acquisitions

The pie-shaped trio of buildings, 82 and 84 Main Street and 2 Broadway, have a common bond in the present more than in the past, although they all stand on what used to be Anna O. Miller's land. The present bond is their ownership by the Wilson Clothing Company.

The lots for 82 Main St. and 2 Broadway were purchased from Anna Miller by W. Smith Fowler as part of a larger parcel in October, 1890. The lot occupied by 84 Main Street she retained until her death in 1899.

The Kendall Building

On October 23, 1890, W. Smith Fowler paid Anna Miller \$2000 for 8/10 of an acre north of her Homestead Lot. Eighteen days later, Fowler sold a 32 x 65 foot patch from the southeast corner of this parcel to Dr. Frank E. Kendall for \$800.

Kendall, some years later, would found a bank. Fowler obviously didn't need to.

Kendall, a pharmacist, soon built a building on his land and, in 1891, opened there the Kendall Pharmacy -- the village's second.

The first pharmacy had been established by J.M. Bull in 1881 at 18 Main St. He and Kendall went into a partnership at that location in 1888, and that arrangement lasted until the latter opened his own store in his own building at 82 Main St.

Kendall sold the building to Eugene DeLaMater and Leonard B. Magill in September, 1905, for \$8,000. He did not sell the business, however, which DeLaMater ran as manager and pharmacist.

As noted elsewhere, a year later, Kendall, along with others established the Saranac Lake National Bank.

In September, 1918, Homer P. Baker and Edwin J. Booth entered into a five-year lease agreement with Kendall for the store space and basement of DeLaMater and Magill's building. Rent was \$125 per month.

Booth finally bought the property from DeLaMater in Sept., 1928,

and became the sole owner of both building and business, although he operated under the name "Kendall Pharmacy" until his retirement in 1959 when he put the property on the market.

In the winter of 1959-60, a disastrous fire started in Meyers Drugs in the old Fowler Post Office Block (a 3-story brick building in the style of the Roberts Block) at 69 Main St. The beautiful, Scopes & Feustman designed building was totally gutted, and the decision was made to cut the top two stories off and modernize the remainder.

While this project was in progress, Meyer's temporarily moved into the space at 82 Main St., where all the pharmacy fixtures were still in place. Once more, people spoke of going to Kendall's even though the prescription bottle or vial in hand bore the name "Meyer"

By summer's end, Meyer's was back at 69 Main St., and in Oct., 1960, Booth sold the Kendall Building to the Wilson Clothing Company which was then operating a store at 8 Broadway.

Wilson's widened and remodeled the front of the building almost immediately and moved in. They have been slowly expanding ever since: first to build a two-story, concrete block addition onto the rear of the Kendall building; then to purchase, renovate, and open a ladies' shop in the Jack Block at 2 Broadway; and finally, to purchase the Mulflur Building.

During the period 1959-1963, Saranac Lake lost, in part or in entirety, an unprecedented number of its downtown buildings. Some were lost to fire, some to parking lots, and some to "modernization". This last category can be divided into those that were remodeled after fire and those that were altered as the result of corporate decision. Of the buildings which were altered in the boardroom, all were unequivocally ugly except for the Wilson Clothing Company's treatment of the Kendall Building.

Certainly, the original, blond, narrow-brick facade on this two-story wood-frame, clapboarded structure has not been equalled by its replacement in terms of grace or of the appropriateness of its "fit" into the scheme of the street. But the present Wilson facade, erected as part of a widening of the building in 1960, is gentle to the eyes.

The facade is a simple one. The ground floor's full width

is a storefront stepped back in two stages so that there are four display windows on each side of the entry instead of the normal two. To the right, within this storefront section and at 90 degrees to the sidewalk, is the entry to the second-story office space. Above the awning, the name "WILSONS" is spelled out in large but non-assaultive, white letters.

The second floor facade is opened by three, equally spaced sets of steel-frame casement windows. All are transomed, and the casement lights of each set are separated by a stationary pane. Above the windows is a half-story parapet treated as an unbroken extension of the facade itself.

All the facing is of panels of mineral "composition material" imported from Belgium. The lower story is colored rust red and the rest is ivory. The coloring agents appear to be an integral part of the material or, at least, baked on very thoroughly.

All trim is aluminum -- mostly plain, narrow strips except for a billeted band across the top.

by Phil Gallos

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