

**THE SARGENT BLOCK**  
**LOCATED AT #35 CENTRAL STREET, WOODSVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**THIS PICTURE AVAILABLE AT WHITE MOUNTAIN TRADER, [info@wmtn.biz](mailto:info@wmtn.biz)**



**This block was built by Mr. George Cummings, in 1860. Cummings, one of nine children, was born in New hampton, nh, on July 7, 1830. He was, for many years, a railroad workman and lived in Ashland, Rumney, and then removed to Woodsville. He left the employ of the railroad in 1870 to enter the drugstore business with Mr. Charles Drake. Mr. Ezra B. Mann joined the firm at a later date and the business operated as E. B. Mann and Company. It was located in the So. Court Street level of the Willoughby Block, opposite the soon to be built (1890) Opera Block.**

**Cummings had a fine house built on Main (Central) Street that later became the home of E. A. Sargent. The town water was not fit for drinking when the Sargents lived here so Mr. Sargent had an artesian well dug in the middle of his sunken lawn. A small building was erected, housing the well, and keys were sold to people so they could unlock the door to the well and get water! It is now the location of Dunkin Donuts.**

**Mr. George Cummings died April 20, 1894 as the oldest resident of Woodsville. His son Charles, born 9-22-1858 became the division Superintendent of the B&M Railroad.**

**The Weeks Block was the first store on the West side of the tracks. The Sargent Block was the second store. Originally it was a small wood framed, pitched roof building, as pictured above. George Cummings sold this building, in 1869, to Alexander H. Burton, a lawyer.**

**Burton had returned to Woodsville after practicing law out West, for several years. He operated a store in this building after returning to Woodsville. A. H. Burton purchased the William Abbott farm above Woodsville and lived there until his death in 1898.**

**Burton sold the business to Seth Stickney and Truman Glover in 1885. Stickney soon left to open his own store in the Brick Block. Mr. Glover continued operating at 35 Central as T. W. Glover & Company. The business grew rapidly expanding lines into groceries, books, shoes, glassware and crockery. A delivery team was necessary to keep up with orders.**

**Glover sold out to his workers who continued as Abbott and Deming, in 1888. They remodeled the building to include a second floor and concrete pavement was added in the front of the store. The second floor was rented to various businesses through the following years. In 1893 the business was purchased by F. P Pray who operated as "THE ONE PRICE CASH STORE."**

**Pray purchased the building a couple of years later. A successor to the building was D. A. Barrows who mainly sold clothing, with a unique and profitable department of lumberman's apparel. Lumber drives were very active at that time in the Connecticut and Ammonoosuc Rivers. The store was once again enlarged in 1902. The back of the building was extended making more selling space available. However, like Mr. Pray before him; Mr. Barrows health declined allowing him less time in the store.**

**Mr. E. A. Sargent worked for Barrows for a few months before buying the store in 1904. Sargent bought the building later, in 1912. By this time the building had been remodeled and stairs were erected on the outside of the building to access the second floor. Mr. Sargent also had the store jacked up and a new street level floor was built under it. Mr. James Lowe, know for his ability to move and restore building, did the work. The the new store had a most unique cash-out system. The cashiers office was a small square, in the back of the store, with a few stairs up to it.**

**You would take your purchase to one of several clerks on the floor, they would make out the salescheck and put it, with the money, into a round tube.**

**The tube was attached to an apparatus and the handle was pulled; sending the tube up to the cashier. The cashier would make the correct change and sent it back down the wire to the proper clerk!!!**

**In 1912 Mr. Sargent had the basement made into selling space. The first tenant was J. Henry Schaefer who operated a restaurant. Mr, Schaefer had previously operated the restaurant in the Parker House (Henderson Hotel), the first hotel in Woodsville. The restaurant in the Sargent basement would seat about 50 patrons. Schaefer later ran the restaurant in the Henderson.**

**Also, in the basement, was the "Woodsville Times", a newspaper and printer, operated by Ashley Hazeltine. This paper was combined with another, the "News" and later became the Twin State news Times, owned by Andy and Evelyn Andrews.**

**The second and third floors continued to be active with businesses such as a barber, chiropodist, rooms for overflow guests at the Wentworth Hotel, Blake the dentist, an osteopath, a hat shop and many more.**

**Mr. Sargent sold the business to Hovey's Shops, from St. Johnsbury. At this time the building was owned by Fred and Marguerite Gardner. The Gardners sold to David Isley and then, in 1973, to a corporation affiliated with Hovey's.**

**In 1995 the business was taken over as a branch of Hubert's, who also purchased the parking area where the Wentworth once stood!**

**Hubert's is still operating the business (2008)**