

EDGAR W. KELLY COBBLESTONE STORE (Site)
HISTORY SHEET
General Information

Name of Structure: Edgar W Kelly Store

Address: 13 Main St W & Mill St (SW), Sodus village

Parcel ID: (544201) 69117-06-256941

Atlas: 1853: "Store"; 1858: just a building mark, 1874: "Dr A Yale Store";
1904: "W W Wood"

When Built/Mason: 1836-1837, Harmon Shear

When Razed: 1937

Why: Redeveloped into gas station

Original Owner: Edgar W Kelly

Subsequent Owner: Purchased 1901 by W. W. Wood (William Whitney Wood)

Original Uses¹: General store, tailor, postmaster's office,
Cobblers (Shoe Shop): Major Hallock (rear of building), Frank Eaton
Repairing & Shoe-Making: Barney Kearney, T. M. Brown
Tailor and Repair shop (2nd floor): Dennis Kearney, Robert West
Fred Sims purchased the grocery & mercantile business of W.H. Sargent
(11/1910)

When Razed: 1936

Repair Work (12/1929):

"... the old structure has been pronounced dangerous and is being strengthened with brick as it is impossible to replace the stones removed in the work. The lower story has been used always as a store and the second floor for a generation at least has been occupied by Robert West with his tailor shop." SODUS RECORD, 12/13/1929 ²

Photographs: Several

<http://townofsodushistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Page-2-16-PDF-New.pdf>

- "Entrance to old cobblestone building, southwest corner Mill and West Main Sts. (Built about 1838; razed in 1936)"

¹ Series of newspaper articles written by W. O. Bryan, local historian

² 1929 Repair work: http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?t=27981&i=t&by=1929&bdd=1920&d=01011929-12311929&e=cobblestone&m=between&ord=e1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19291213_english_4&df=1&dt=2

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- "Looking west from Mill St on south side West Main. First 3 buildings razed in 1936."
- "Booster Days 1910 (May 20 & 21)

Also two photographs: c.1868, in Andrea T Evangelist's "Remembering Wayne", © 1999; another one c.1910 in Evangelist's "Gathering of Memories", © 2003.

Description:

Structural details:

The gable front of this 2-story building faced Main St. It had a center entrance and a double-window flanking on each side of the door (not cobble). Centered above the lower openings were three same-sized openings—strangely, above the downstairs door was an upstairs door with no porch or rail. The upper level on the Main St side and long side (facing Mill St) were of cobblestones. Like the nearby cobblestone M.E. Church, the corners were secured with marble-looking pilasters, and the 1st story store-front was of similar material. Above the 2nd story windows was a horizontal band of similar material separating it from the simple triangular tympanum (of cobblestones) above. On the side facing Mill St, there is not a photograph showing any design details. A small part of the Mill St facing front corner shows a 6-over-6 sash window with a wooden lintel and sill (identical with those on the storefront side). Below it is a large advertising poster and some horses going by.

Masonry details:

Small lake-washed uniformly sized, shaped, and colored cobblestones were neatly set on both the frontage facing Main St and on the long side facing Mill St. Masonry style was the same on both. One photograph shows the front corner with a crowd lined along the street. Wooden lintels and sills throughout.

Note: Poor photograph resolution makes it impossible to discern mortar and jointing details. Lacking quoins there is no scale to assess the size of the stones.

References

<http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?>

http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?t=27981&i=t&d=01011930-12311940&e=w%20w%20wood&m=between&ord=e1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19361231_english_1&df=1&dt=10

Sodus Record, pg 1, THR Dec 31, 1936 LANDMARK BEING RAZED TO MAKE WAY FOR GAS STATION — Site Occupied By Three Buildings Owned By W. W. Wood Estate on South Side of Main St

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After long negotiation it is announced that the Standard Oil Company has leased the site now occupied by three buildings owned by the W. W. Wood estate on the south side of Main street—the structures including the first three in the block, all being landmarks.

The agreement calls for the former owners to remove the buildings at once and work has already started on the middle structure, formerly occupied by the Maitland meat market. The Standard Oil Company will erect a modern filling station... In the rear, Owen Wood & Son will have a Pontiac service station with entrance on Mill street.

For years oil companies have had their eyes on that corner, but it was not until about 8 months ago that the Standard Oil concern began negotiations... The Standard Oil Company plans on having its station ready for opening next spring.

The old building on the corner is over 100 years old according to authentic reports. It has been repaired from time to time... In the upper part of the structure the late Robert West conducted his tailoring business for many years. In the lower part there have been many tenants including the post office when the late E.W. Kelly was postmaster ... the late Fred A Sims who conducted a grocery store which was later operated by Arthur Johnson. There were several others whose names will be recalled by some of the older residents.

Newark NY Arcadian Weekly Gazette 1899-1902 - 0681.pdf (5/21/1901)

Since W. W. Wood has purchased the Kelly block on the south side of Main St, he owns now about one fifth of the business portion of Sodus.

Newspaper Cato NY Citizen 1910 - 1912 - 0418.PDF (11/29/1910)

"Fred Sims left Cato this week for his new place of business in Sodus where he has purchased a grocery store. Mr Sims is a thorough businessman and in a prosperous town like Sodus will no doubt do well." KC: Took possession 1/1/1911 but continued advertising as the papers through 1913 as "W. H. Sargent & Co"—selling ladies hats and "our fine new line of Barettes", "full line of the best groceries"...

The Record, pg 2, Friday 12/21/1928, "Out of the Mail Bag"

<http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/search?>

[k=cobblestone&co=1546&t=27981&i=t&d=12/1/1928-12/31/1928&bcn=1&m=between&ord=k1](http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/search?k=cobblestone&co=1546&t=27981&i=t&d=12/1/1928-12/31/1928&bcn=1&m=between&ord=k1)

"The cobblestone store on the corner, where Johnson holds forth and the one story cobblestone house on Maple avenue, are the only buildings in the village built before the middle of the 19th century that have not been changed in their exterior. The store was built by Harmon Shear in 1836 or 1837. The cobblestone house on Maple avenue was built by Jonas Miller a few years later."

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The Record, p4, Friday 12/13/1929

[http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/search?
k=cobblestone&co=1546&t=27981&i=t&d=12/13/1929-12/13/1929&bcn=1&m=between&ord=k1](http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/search?k=cobblestone&co=1546&t=27981&i=t&d=12/13/1929-12/13/1929&bcn=1&m=between&ord=k1)

"Repairing is being done this week on the old cobblestone store at the corner of Main and Mill streets. This building is at least a hundred years old and one of the landmarks of the village. The masons of that day understood the art of mixing mortar which has defied the elements until now, when the old structure has been pronounced dangerous and is being strengthened with brick, as it is impossible to replace the stones removed in the work. The lower story has been used always as a store and the second floor for a generation, at least, has been occupied by Robert West with his tailor shop."

The Record, pg 2, THR 1/9/1941, "An Old-timer Goes Back Into History"

[http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer?
k=major%20hallock%20frank%20eaton%20were%20his%20cobblers&i=f&d=01011876-12312018&m=between&ord=k1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19410109_english_2&df=1&dt=1](http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/viewer?k=major%20hallock%20frank%20eaton%20were%20his%20cobblers&i=f&d=01011876-12312018&m=between&ord=k1&fn=record_usa_new_york_sodus_19410109_english_2&df=1&dt=1)

"On the southwest corner of Main and Mills streets, was Edgar W Kelly's 2-story cobblestone building and on the first floor was his shoe store. Major Hallock and Frank Eaton were his cobblers. Later Barney Kearney and T.M. Brown did his repairing and shoe-making. On the second floor was Dennis Kearney's tailor and repair shop."

The Record, pg 6, THR 4/25/1940 "The Observer Observes"

[http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/search?
k=major%20hallock&co=1546&t=27981&i=t&d=1/1/1940-12/31/1940&bcn=1&m=between&ord=k1](http://sodus.advantage-preservation.com/search?k=major%20hallock&co=1546&t=27981&i=t&d=1/1/1940-12/31/1940&bcn=1&m=between&ord=k1)

"W. W. Wood finally bought that corner cobblestone building, which was an old landmark, but sadly in need of repair. Not a few will recall the Robert West had his tailor shop upstairs. ... Not long ago the building was removed and a modern gas station, operated by Mr Wood's son and grandsons, took its place. ... Some will remember when the late E.W. Kelly was postmaster and the office was in the old cobblestone structure. The same people will recall that Major Hallock conducted a shoe shop in the rear."