

The Gedney Block & Seimon-Dubois House







RHWG: The three-story Gedney building was built in 1876 on the site of the of J. Siemon farm, an 18th century tenant farm. The early Seimon farmhouse is attached to the brick building on the north. The large-scale Gedney block signified a big change in the village in the 19th century, when the four corners were developed with substantial commercial structures. Owner B.F. Gedney operated a general store there and rented rooms upstairs. A drug store has occupied the glass fronted first floor space continually since 1917. A popular soda fountain drugstore in the 1940s and 50s attracted travelers, including a famous stop by New York Governor Thomas Dewey.

The building and its extension feature a slate mansard roof with dormers of brick masonry. It once housed a millinery shop and newspaper office, as well as Oak & Cleo's, a classic 1940s/50s soda fountain and hamburger joint, complete with jukebox.

RHHG: Built around 1876, in the 1940's it had a very famous soda fountain where personalities such as Thomas E. Dewey stopped to refresh themselves. Recent alterations have removed the soda fountain. The sheer bulk of this structure and the expanse of the five stores attached to it make it the most dominant of the three structures in the center of the Village. It has a slated mansard roof punctuated by dormers of bricks masonry construction. The builder Benjamin F. Gedney, brought the first real department store and shopping center to Red Hook.

RHHWT: The original owner, Henning, first opened the drug store in the Aucoch Building across the street. In 1917, the drug store was moved to its present location. Originally this site had been a hotel and a shopping center, built by Benjamin Franklin Gedney in 1876. The Red Hook Drug Store was owned by Archie Paine in the 20s and 30s. Walter Bean owned the store from the mid-1940s until 1958 when Dan Griffin and Jim Maher became partners. The drug store had a soda fountain from 1940 to 1970.

Bassett: Was new in 1871 but I do not recall when it was built. I remember the hall over the store, and a saloon in the basement, and I remember when they changed the hall into rooms for city borders. i also remember when Mr. Gedney built the row of stores on

West Market Street. At first they were an archway to drive to the rear of the buildings but that has been closed. there used to be several small wooden building that were used for business purposes on the north side of West Market Street in the old days, but they were, one by one, replaced by larger and better buildings. Stephen R. Burnett and George Near had a carpenter shop on the rear of his part of the property. For some years this has been a cooper shop. The Burnett building has been enlarged. This is one of the oldest buildings in the village and was formerly owned by William DuBois, a bachelor and a very interesting man, who had lived many places and seen much of life.