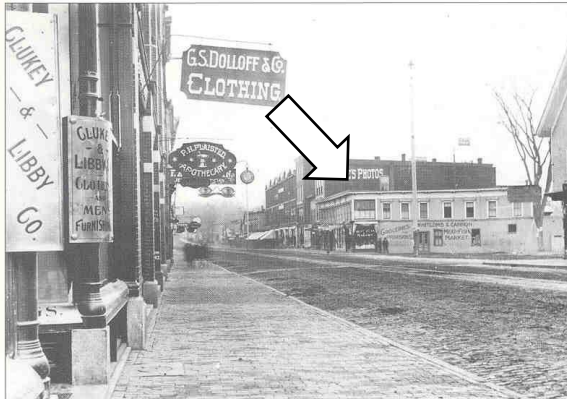


MONTGOMERY WARD DEPARTMENT STORE

81-85 Main Street ~ Map #12



This photo shows Whitcomb & Cannon Grocery store, which was replaced by Montgomery Ward Department Store in 1938.

The architecture of this building is Colonial Revival and a mansard roof was added in 1948. As evidenced by the above photo, the building replaced the last concentration of wood buildings on Main Street and was the last major commercial building erected on Main Street prior to urban renewal projects in the 1960s.

The Sterns Department Store was located here for over 30 years. In the early 1990s the building became



the Waterville Regional Arts & Community Center, when Colby College spearheaded an effort to save and revitalize the building. It changed hands in 2015, purchased by Waterville Creates! a collaborative consortium established to work directly with community arts, creative and cultural institutions to enhance and strengthen the vitality of Waterville.

The upper floors house the City Council chambers and several business offices, while the first floor is a mix of retail and office uses. In the late 1990s a glassed-in skywalk was added to the second floor to connect the building with City Hall and the Opera House.