

4 East Main Street - The Mystical Toys Site

Can you believe that nearly 150 years ago, on the site of the Mystical Toys building was a large meeting place known as Washington Hall? The site was owned by Benjamin Hoxie.

Washington Hall first burned down in 1885. It was then rebuilt as an opera house but that burned down again in 1900. After the second fire, it was not reconstructed for many years.

In the 1920s the Strand Theater building and another building containing shops were built on the corner of East Main & Cottrell Streets. This was a distinctive building and a section of it even stretched over the Mystic River. Three decades later, Dan Fuller opened Noyes Dry Goods in that building, along with Kinney Jewelers. Another tragic fire in 1960 destroyed the entire block. Only Noyes Dry Goods would be rebuilt in 1961, not the opera house nor the Strand Theater.

After 30 years in business, Noyes Dry Goods closed for good in 1989. For a short time it was an Oriental rug store, later Mystical Toys opened in 1999. For years, it has been a popular place for kids.