

constructed circa 1960

F.W. Woolworth Co. · 390 River Street



Excerpt from Wikipedia

The F. W. Woolworth Company (often referred to as Woolworth's, or Woolworth) was a retail company that was one of the original pioneers, and arguably the most successful American and international five-and-dime stores, setting trends and creating the modern retail model which stores follow worldwide today.

The first Woolworth store was opened by Frank Winfield Woolworth on February 22, 1878, as "Woolworth's Great Five Cent Store" in Utica, New York. Though it initially appeared to be successful, the store soon failed. Searching for a new location, a friend suggested Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Using the sign from the Utica store, Frank opened his first successful "Woolworth's Great Five Cent Store" on July 18, 1879, in Lancaster. Frank brought his brother, Charles Sumner Woolworth, into the business.

The two Woolworth brothers pioneered and developed merchandising, direct purchasing, and sales and customer service practices commonly used today. Despite growing to be one of the largest retail chains in the world through most of the 20th century, increased competition led to its decline beginning in the 1980s. The chain went out of business in July 1997.

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The Manistee Woolworth store closed in 1986. The Ben Franklin Five and Dime store moved from their location at 378 River Street to the building at 390 River Street in 1987 and remained at that location for two years. The store sat vacant from 1990 till 1994 when the store was divided into a mixed use of retail and office space.

Manistee Commercial Historic District – listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places