

CAROLINA COMPASS

Some Franklin Street stores keep their historical flair

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Staff Writer

Stores on Franklin Street often come and go or at least change somewhat over the years; however, Sutton's Drug Store, Jeff's Campus Confectionery and Huggins Hardware are three businesses on Franklin Street that haven't changed in almost 60 years of existence.

On the main block of East Franklin Street, Sutton's Drug Store, a combination drug store and lunch counter, is one such long-lived place, said John Woodard, owner and manager of Sutton's Drug Store.

"Sutton's has been here since 1923," Woodard said. "James Sutton built it then and died around 1956, and then his wife kept it for 10 years."

Woodard said he bought it in 1977. "When I bought it, I had to keep it (the store) the same way," he said. "That was part of the deal."

"They (the previous owners) said they'd run me out of town if I changed it."

Woodard said the store hasn't changed because Chapel Hill alumni and residents want to keep it the way they remember it.

"We have people come in that have been coming in for 50 years," Woodard said. "We're the only full service, old fashioned drug store and soda fountain around."

"We're full service because our customers are able to go in and get what they want — with our help — without having to do it themselves."

"When someone comes in with a prescription, I take it and help them without giving it to a clerk," added Woodard, who graduated from UNC and has a degree in pharmacy.

"Most of our business revolves around the students and people who work there (at the University) — strictly within the walking distance because they are the ones that find it easier to get to us because of the lack of parking spaces," he said.

According to Woodard, many students prefer Sutton's to a regular drug store because Sutton's will set up charge accounts where the bills are sent home to the parents.

"We try to be their (students') hometown drug store away from home," he said.

As far as the food goes, the soda fountain, old fashioned lemonade

and milk shakes are the biggest drawing points to go with the standard hamburger and fries, he said.

"We're known for our fresh orange juice and lemonade that we squeeze ourselves," Willie Mae, who started working at Sutton's in 1956, said from behind the lunch counter.

At the lunch counter, which is located in the back of the store and has old-time swivel chairs, customers can get cold fountain drinks and/or meals, she said.

Egg breakfasts, hamburgers, french fries, hot dogs, barbecue and cold sandwiches are a few of the favorites, she said.

Besides Sutton's Drug Store, another oldtimer is Jeff's Campus

Confectionery, which has been around since 1927, according to its owner and manager, James "Jim" Mousmoules.

"We're the oldest business in Chapel Hill that's been owned by one family," he said.

Although Mousmoules said they were mainly in the magazine and newspaper business, he said Jeff's also offers cold Coca Cola, beer, sandwiches and cigarettes.

"We sell over a hundred thousand of fountain drinks a year," he said. "It's the good carbonation, the old system."

A lot of the customers are regulars who work on Franklin Street or who

run errands there, he said.

"I knew what she wanted even before she opened up the door," he said after he served a lady a cold Coke and rung up the price on the old-time register without her having to say a word.

"During the football season, the alumni come in and drink beer before the games because it is the only place they know," he said.

And it is the same way they remember it, said Mousmoules, who hasn't changed anything, not even the name.

"Jeff was my mother's brother and he died in 1956, but you know what

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Varied Chapel Hill eateries accommodate all tastes

From staff reports

Okay, so you've had a few forkfuls of cafeteria food at Lenoir Hall, and you already find your tongue flapping in the wind and your taste buds adrift, awaiting some culinary wind to fill their sails.

You need some *real food*.

Well, have no fear. There are alternatives to cafeteria cuisine.

First, the fast food joints. Just like every dog has fleas, every town has McDonald's and its ilk. Along Franklin Street, you'll find McDonald's and Hardee's on the west end toward Carrboro and Burger King just across from Silent Sam.

Now, on to finer fare.

Would you like some breakfast? First stop, Ye Olde Waffle Shop on Franklin. Despite its doughy biscuits and bitter coffee, this small, narrow restaurant with counter seating and tables is a Chapel Hill institution. On a weekend, you'll wait in line.

Another Chapel Hill favorite is Breadmen's on Rosemary Street. It has a roomy dining room and plenty of parking. Try the thick blueberry pancakes, blueberry crumbcake a mile high or creamy cream cheese omelets, which come with home fries or grits and biscuits or toast (try the sunflower toast). Breadmen's also serves lunch and dinner with great sandwiches and thick hamburgers (try one topped with blue cheese), and features combination plates with a choice of meat and vegetables for a set price.

The Continental Cafe on Henderson Street also serves breakfast. You can sit in a booth, tilt your head back and look at the 20 or so panels depicting scenes from Greek mythology on their vaulted ceiling. Ask for their cheese omelet made with mozzarella instead of American cheese.

Bruegger's Bagel Bakery serves fine, chewy bagels for those in a New York state of mind — sesame, pumpernickel, whole wheat, cinnamon-raisin, onion, garlic, salt and plain. Try one with honey-walnut cream cheese, and take home a cheap bagful of their day-old bagels just waiting for your microwave or toaster. They also serve big bagel sandwiches and two soups daily.

Carolina Coffee Shop has a quiet, elegant and expensive breakfast. They have jelly and sugar in glass bowls with little spoons. You'll feel like a real gentleman or lady while you dine on one of their asparagus omelets, although the coffee may be lukewarm at best.

There are a variety of choices for lunch and dinner, and here are a few of them.

"Put a little South in your Mouth" is the motto of Dip's Country Kitchen, which is next to Tijuana Fat's on Rosemary Street. Dip's is the can't-miss, must-try place. It serves authentic Southern food at fairly reasonable prices. Fried chicken, vegetable fritters, chicken and dumplings and even chitlins are on the menu. With an entree, pick from their long list of vegetables and choose either cornbread, biscuits, muffins or rolls as your bread. Finish up with a piece of savory sweet potato pie.

The Looking Glass Cafe is a fine little gem, tucked away in the back of the University Square. It's light and airy inside, with large windows, hanging plants and ceiling fans. Because the Cafe has a number of vegetarian selections, such as the vegetable and spinach-cheese sandwiches, many overlook that the menu also includes hamburgers and corned beef sandwiches.

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Tar Heel/Elizabeth Morrah

Sign of the times

It's too darn hot, as the Home Savings & Loan sign on Rosemary Street shows, on this steamy day in

July. The sign absorbed direct sunlight, making the temperature soar above official reports.