

[Second Universalist Society, New York City]

Harlem Building Occupied by Many Different Enterprises

Not many buildings can boast of as diversified a list of business enterprises, both spiritual and secular, being carried on beneath its roof as the building now occupied by the Harlem I. G. grocery. It was built for use as a Universalist church before any of our present day residents can remember, though some of them can remember attending revival services there as children sixty-five years ago. Later[,] interest in the church died down and the building was abandoned and became much in need of repairs. About 1883 or '84 it was converted into a roller skating rink, and later used as a theatre, where dancing parties and home talent plays were given. Years went by and it was converted into a grocery store. For about twenty-five years it was occupied by the Harlem Feed mill and store. After this business moved, the building was made into a modern grocery, with storage room and garages on the William street side.

The name "Harlem" started as a nickname after the "Brooklyn" stores started east of the Albany street bridge, and always has clung to it.

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Transcribed on 9 Jun 2016 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY