

The Tweed Shop



Business History

The Tweed Shop

One of the locations of the shop was:

Emily Farnsworth Store and Post Office

Address: 410 Main Street

Qty: Southwest Harbor

State: Maine

Owned by: Ritchie - Edith Elizabeth Ritchie (1905-1994)

The Tweed Shop in Southwest Harbor, Maine, a summer enterprise, was typical of Tweed Shops all over the country at the time. This photograph was taken in 1951, but the Tweed Shop had started in the 1930s and continued well into the 1960s. There are still a few Tweed Shops scattered around the country in 2012.

There was a "British Tweed Shop" or a "Scottish Tweed Shop" or a "Town and Country Tweed Shop" or a "Country Tweed Shop" doing business in Northeast Harbor from at least July of 1942 until 1965. Bar Harbor hosted "Olive's Tweed Shop" or the "Bar Harbor Tweed Shop" at various times from at least 1945 to 1968.

During the time when the Tweed Shops were popular they often opened summer branches in upscale resort communities, in charming little shops or barns decked out as a New Yorker's idea of a country shop. They usually featured at least one floor loom and often sold trendy upscale antiques and unique gifts along with yardage, handbags, ties, socks, kilts and jackets and bespoke clothing. The Southwest Harbor Tweed Shop seems to have been a good example. Just inside the door at the right of the photograph one can just see a wooden trunk painted by Peter Hunt (1896-1967), or in the style of Peter Hunt, the folk painter at Provincetown, Massachusetts, a good example of one of the trends sweeping the country at the time. A trunk like the one shown in the photograph, in good condition, would, in 2012, be a valuable antique.

The history of the Southwest Harbor Tweed Shop can be pieced together from newspaper accounts from the Bar Harbor Times and a little research.

"At 522 Madison Avenue, there is a new and distinguished little boite called, with simple clarity, the Tweed Shop. Wonderful imported tweeds are strewn around the little room in bolts, and hanging in the closet are a few charming two-piece suits, some of the strictly tailored in the classic tailor's sense, and other very Chanel, with patch pockets and trick pleats and other dressmaking details. You pick your material and they make your suit for you in a way that, I hear, approaches the inimitable. Two ingratiating features of the place are that you can buy the tweeds by the yard if you like, and that there are some suits you can take home with you if they happen to fit. Among other things tossed around are some lightweight cashmere sweaters, cut very waisty in divine colors, and

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State: ME

Country: USA

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