

# Odd Fellows Building, Downtown Main Street

Notes and research by Susan Barlow and Dick Jenkins April 2017

## • Ads in 1915 Town Directory •

C. H. TRYON---Sanitary Market  
ODD FELLOWS BLOCK

The Home of Pure Food Products  
Full Line of Choice Groceries and Meats

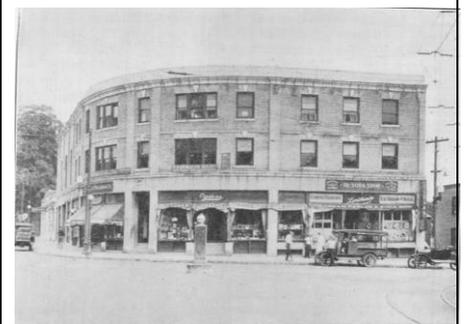
Telephone 441 15a Prompt Delivery

The Tryon grocery was at the east end of the Odd Fellows block.

ALBERT M. DUPONT  
SHOE STORE AND  
MEN'S TOGGERY SHOP  
ODD FELLOWS BLOCK, 50. MANCHESTER



1917 parade



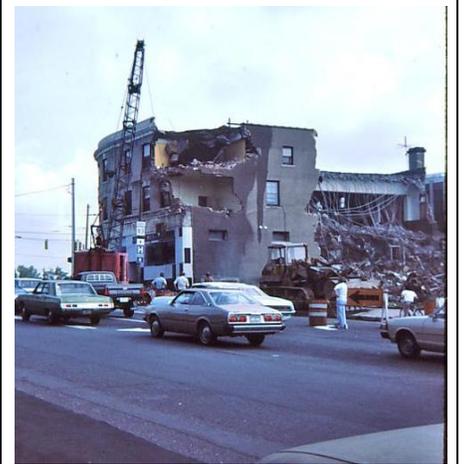
About 1914  
King David Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was founded in 1890 with 10 charter members. It met at the Masonic Hall before erecting its own building.



About 1940. There's a Chevrolet agency east of the block. Signs on the building say: "Center Pharmacy - Edward J. Murphy Prop. - Soda Drugs Luncheon" and "Bingo Every Thursday Nite, IOOF, Mammoth Prizes."

**\$90,000 Price Indicated**  
**Odd Fellows Building Sold**  
MANCHESTER—Ownership of a Main Street landmark—the Odd Fellows building at the Center—has changed, according to a war-rumored deal finalized at 11:55 a. m. at the town clerk's office.  
The instrument conveys the three-story building, erected more than a half-century ago, from the Odd Fellows building Association of Manchester Inc. to the S.H.V.C. Inc. of Manchester. Conveyance tax was \$99 including that the full purchase price was \$90,000. Conveyance tax is figured at \$1.10 per \$1,000.  
The building is free and clear of any mortgage. The purchaser did not give back a mortgage, indicating that it was a cash transaction.  
The purchase is subject to the provisions of any ordinance, municipal regulation, public and private law, zoning regulations and laws in force as of Oct. 1, 1974.  
Grand List.  
When the building was erected, it was considered an architectural wonder because of its curve design and granite block construction.  
On Market  
The building has been on the real estate market several years and has a current assessment of \$47,900, according to reports at the town assessors' office.  
Several weeks ago, town directors considered purchasing the building for eventual razing and improving of motor vehicle traffic circulation at The Center.  
However, the purchase proposal was rejected by town directors after a minimum of discussion, and the matter was eliminated from further consideration by its removal from the meeting agenda of the town directors.  
Real estate agent Thomas J. Crechetti, who handled sale negotiations, revealed recently that the building had been sold to local interests.  
It has four business establishments on the street level and contains about a dozen apartments and the Odd Fellows Hall on the second and third levels.  
Corporation Officers  
The purchasing corporation is headed by Kristine Carlson as president-treasurer, Stuart C. Carlson is vice-president, and Karen Carlson is secretary.  
Stuart H.V. Carlson, local businessman, is a consultant to the corporation.

1975: Odd Fellows sells building for \$90,000 to SHVC Corporation, Kristine Carlson, Pres., Stuart C. Carlson, VP, and consultant Stuart H. V. Carlson



1982 Demolition

Curving around the corner of Main and East Center Streets was a large three-story building – the Odd Fellows lodge hall, constructed in 1913. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a social and benevolent society, originated in England in the 18th century. Over the years, this building housed a first-floor grocery store, Packard's Pharmacy, bowling alley, picture/gift shop, and an auto salesroom. There was a newsstand and barber shop and bus terminal at the very center of the building, to which there were three to five stairs up. Newspapers were stacked outside the door on the stoop. Bidwell's soda shop and other businesses came and went. The busses to Providence and parts beyond could be caught there and bus tickets were sold. Over the years, the second floor housed the Connecticut Business College and Odd Fellows Meeting Hall. On the third floor were apartments. Later on, the building housed The Red Sox Dugout (a pool hall) in the basement, bars called Carrie Nation's and the Other Horse, and Roma Italian Pastry. During the 1970s, churches in the community housed refugees in apartments on the second and third floor. St. James Church sponsored a family of Laotian refugees seeking sanctuary in the United States. Despite protests, the Odd Fellows building was demolished in 1982. A monument (pictured at right) was erected at the southeast corner of Main and East Center Streets.

