

“Rubinow” Building, Downtown Main Street

Notes by Susan Barlow and Dick Jenkins, November 2014

The building at 841 Main St., corner of Purnell Place, has been known as the “Burtons” building, and earlier as the “Rubinow” building, and even earlier as the “Park” building. The Rubinow family, immigrants from Eastern Europe, operated a clothing store there. Attorney Laurence Rubinow, grandson of the clothing-store owner, said: “My dad’s [Judge Jay Rubinow] law firm was located in that building, and I worked in that building as an associate and then a partner in my dad’s former law firm from 1969 until 1979. When I started practicing law, my grandfather still had his office in the building. The women’s clothing store on the first floor, Burtons, was the successor to my grandfather’s store, Rubinow’s.”

The five-sided polygon in the center of the roof line contained the word Rubinow until a late-1990s façade renovation removed it. The *1996-1997 Historic & Architectural Survey of Manchester* notes: “The original commercial building was a 2-1/2-story hipped-roof structure with a similar fenestration pattern built circa 1893, with major renovations and expansions in the early twentieth century and again in the 1940s. On the second story, the windows are arranged in a 2-3-2 rhythm across the façade. On the third story at center is a row of four 1/1 double-hung sash windows with sets of paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows on either side. Extending across the façade is a narrow cornice, which delineates the stepped parapet wall that runs above it.”

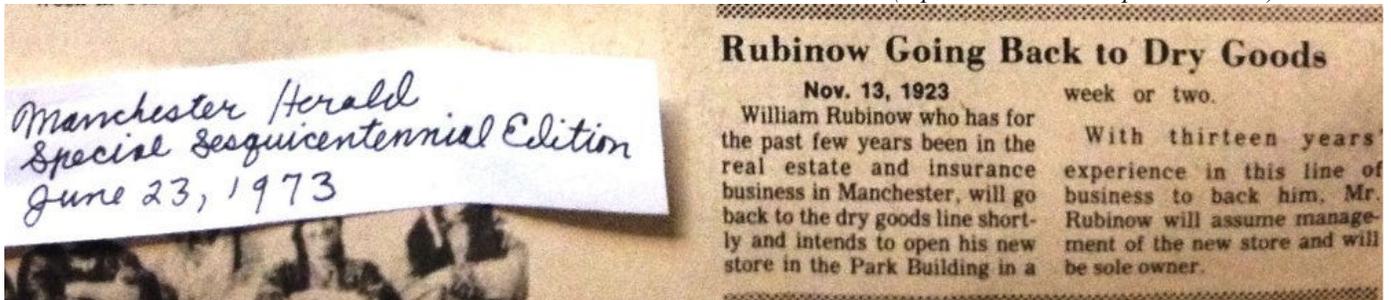
Dick Jenkins, Historical Society member, researcher, and photographer, created this image and commentary, showing a dramatic change in the building:



Then and Now: A photographic comparison of the landmark, the Purnell Building on the left, Rubinow Building, center, and the Orford Hotel on the far right. The Rubinow Bldg. did have its roof removed and a 3rd story added in 1940. The Purnell Bldg. was completed in 1900, the F.T. Bleh Hardware and Keth Furniture occupying the lower floor. The Orford Hotel opened its doors in 1894. Some of the past occupants of the Rubinow Bldg. were the Dewey and Richman Co. and Burton's Dress Shoppes.

Dick Jenkins

1923 *Manchester Herald* article about the Rubinow store (reprinted in a 1973 special edition)



Rubinow Going Back to Dry Goods

Nov. 13, 1923

William Rubinow who has for the past few years been in the real estate and insurance business in Manchester, will go back to the dry goods line shortly and intends to open his new store in the Park Building in a

week or two.

With thirteen years experience in this line of business to back him, Mr. Rubinow will assume management of the new store and will be sole owner.