

Cowles Hotel in the Old North End, Notes by Susan Barlow for the Manchester Historical Society

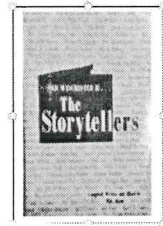
*Storyteller: Illustrated Review of
Northeastern Connecticut, June 1891*

HOTEL

**The Cowles Hotel
C. W. Allen, Proprietor**

The leading, and in fact only, hotel in Manchester is the Cowles House of which Mr. C. W. Allen is the genial host. This gentleman has a long experience in the hotel business and is eminently qualified by training and natural adaptability to conduct a first class house such as the Cowles Hotel is.

This house is capable of accommodating a large number of guests and its cuisine and dining room are par excellence, giving the house a widespread reputation among the travelling public. Manchester is quite famous for its attractiveness during the summer months and those coming to this place to spend a few quiet and enjoyable weeks or days, have always the certainty of being comfortably provided for at one of the best hotels in the State. Mr. Allen possesses the enterprise and faculty for running a first class caravansary and is also one of Manchester's representative citizens.



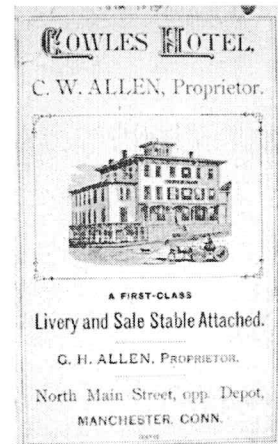
← Excerpt
from The
Storytellers
book
published
1995

Fire at Cowles Hotel in *Courant* article, January 14, 1940, that said the Cowles Hotel burned the previous Saturday.

“The 90-years-old Cowles Hotel block in Manchester, not occupied for some months except in four stores at the street level, was wrecked in a fire which caused about \$25,000 damage. The stores in the Silk Town escaped fire damage but there was considerable loss by water....The interior of the hotel, used in recent years as a rooming house but abandoned several months ago, was gutted and four stores on the street level suffered water and smoke damage. Policeman Lester Behrend, who spread the alarm to sleepers in an adjacent building, prevented spread of the fire to other buildings in the business district when he closed large iron shutters in the Coughlin block. It was learned late Saturday afternoon that the upper part of the building will be levelled to the stores and these will be repaired. A bowling alley owned by Thomas F. Conran and the North End Billiard Academy recently opened by Frank D'Amico in another part of the damaged structure also suffered water damage.” [Typed “as is” from the original *Courant* text.]

Webmaster's note: In later years, the repaired first floor housed an A&P grocery.

Ad for Cowles Hotel in
1892 Manchester directory



1923 picture of Cowles Hotel in
Manchester's North End

