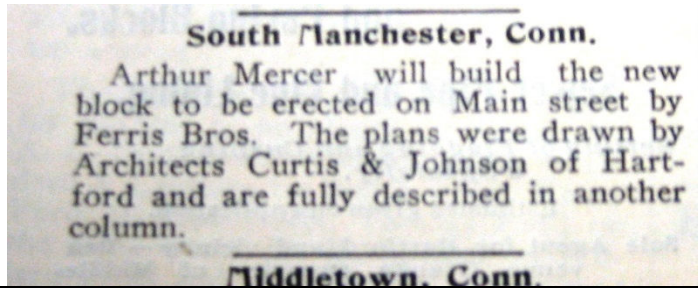


The Ferris building in Downtown Manchester

Hartford architectural firm Curtis & Johnson, designer of the Ferris building, operated from 1891-1903, and designed homes, schools, and warehouses. The building they designed in 1901 for the Ferris brothers originally faced Downtown Main Street at the corner of Oak Street.

Faye Ferris, granddaughter of Edwin T. Ferris, remembers that Watkins brothers bought the building from the Ferrises for \$7,000. The Ferris building was then moved down the hill and turned to face Oak Street, and the Watkins furniture building opened in 1920. The buildings were integrated in such a way that they almost look like one building (constructed at the same time).



“Commercial Record” article 2/2/1901. Copies of the “Commercial Record” available at CT State Library.



Ferris building, facing Main St.; 1918 photo by John Knoll.



Watkins building under construction, 1920, a project of the Manchester Construction Company, owned by The Knofla brothers. Photo from a Knofla family album.

Watkins store opening, November 1920, with special music and tours.

**NOTED SINGER AT
OPENING OF STORE**

Henry Burr and Leading Piano Makers to Attend S. Manchester Event.

Representative Aaron Johnson of Manchester will formally open the doors at the christening of Watkins Brothers' store in South Manchester at 2 p. m. tomorrow, acting as chairman of the board of selection. A program will start at 2:30 and continue for an hour. There will be brief talks by Jacob Becker, president.



Watkins and other Downtown buildings, 1932 photo by Leon Fallot.

Contemporary view of former Ferris building on the north side of Oak Street. Note that the car is coming out of Purnell Place onto Oak Street. Photo by Dick Jenkins



Contemporary view of former Ferris building on the north side of Oak Street, looking toward Main Street. Photo by Susan Barlow.