In a Courant news listing dated March 19, 1897, among other news was this review of a play at Apel’s Opera house. Here is a transcription of that excerpt: Apel’s Opera House was crowded Wednesday evening when the curtain went up on the first act of “Robert Emmet.” The play had been well prepared under the direction of P.J. Tuohy, and every part was well taken. The play is a romantic Irish drama in three acts and the scene is laid near Dublin in 1798. The part of Robert Emmet was exceedingly well taken by P.J. Tuohy and Thomas Hickey, who is always a favorite with Manchester audiences, took the party of Darby O’Gaff to perfection. Miss Rowe and Miss Cunningham also acted their parts well. The proceeds will go to the building fund of St. Bridget’s Church and will reach nearly $150. Following is the full cast: Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot, P.J. Tuohy; Darby O’Gaff, a sprig of the Emerald Isle, Thomas hickey; Kernan, a traitor, W.P. Smith; O’Leary, an old soldier, Everett Mansfield; Dowdall, a friend to Emmet, Michael Moriarty; Sergeant Topfall, A.J. Murphy; Corporal Thomas, James Gill; Lord Norbury, Thomas J. Smith; Baron George, John Gill; Baron Daly, Daniel Guerin; Connor, the jailer, Arthur Keating; Sarah Currant, Emmet’s betrothed, Miss Mary Rowe; Judy O’Dougherty, Miss Maggie Cunningham.

More about Apel’s opera house, including a short video, on the Reprints page of the Historical Society’s website www.manchesterhistory.org.

Whole article: Pertinent excerpt: Contemporary photos of Apel’s Opera House by Susan Barlow, for the Manchester Historical Society.

The plaque in the middle of the wall says B.C. Apel 1888.