

## **Saul Goldfarb's Block** by Mel Montemerlo

Those who lived in Windsor Locks in the 1940s, 50s and 60s remember the building on Main Street that housed Bianchi's Restaurant and Shonty's Bar and Grill on the ground floor, and rental apartments on the upper floors. At that time, Saul Goldberg was the owner of that building, but he was not the original owner of the building. This article examines the history of that building.

In the early 1900s, large multi-purpose buildings in a town or city were referred to as Blocks. A single purpose building might be an apartment house or a hotel. A multi-purpose building would be one which had some combination of stores, a hotel, manufacturing, offices, rental apartments, etc.

The original owner of that building (or Block) was Mr. John Moran. He was born in Suffield in about 1821. He lived in Hartford, and in New York for a while. According to the May 1, 1898 issue of the Springfield Republican, he returned to Windsor Locks in the days of stagecoaches. He leased the Yellow Tavern and ran it as a coach house. In 1854, he was working for the American Hotel in Warehouse Point ( Hartford Times, July 15, 1854) The May 1, 1898 article said that he worked for the Charter Oak Hotel in Windsor Locks for a while. The Charter Oak Hotel was the original name of the hotel across from the Railroad station, that was later owned by Vito Colapietro. Below is an early photo of the Moran building at about the turn of the century. The Moran Block is on the right side of the photo.



**Pease  
block**   **Burnap  
block**

**Charter Oak  
Hotel**

**Moran  
block**

The Springfield Republican issue of April 17, 1874, said that Robert McConan bought John Moran's Main Street block for about \$15,000. The Dec. 3, 1874 issue of the Springfield Republican said that T. E. Carroll bought the John Moran block from Robert McGowan. NOTE: Obviously, there is a discrepancy between the two newspaper articles on the name of the man who owned the block before Mr. Carroll. In the first article, his name is "McConan". In the second, it is "McGowan." One of Mr. Carroll's daughters married a Robert McCowan. That is a clue as to the correct spelling of that name.

There about a dozen newspaper references to Mr. T. F. Carroll between 1870 and 1886, but most of them were advertisements in which Mr. Carroll was looking for millinery and dress makers for his store in the Burnap block, or advertisements for space he had for rent. Mr. Carroll was a real entrepreneur.

Mr. Carroll died in 1886. The next newspaper reference to this block was in 1922, when it was owned by Mr. Moses Goldfarb. The first reference was that Mr. Goldfarb's clothing store was robbed in 1922 (Springfield Republican, May 31, 1922). On the upper floor of Mr. Goldfarb's block were apartments that he rented. In the early days, Mr. Goldfarb had a clothing business on the first floor. Later he rented space to Bianchi's Restaurant, and Shonty's Bar and Grill. There was once a Chinese laundry in the upper floor.

Below is a 1925 photo of the Goldfarb Block. A close look at this photo and the previous one show that the building has undergone renovation.



**Central  
Hall  
block**

**Coly's Hotel**

**Goldfarb  
block, was  
Moran block**

**Bee Hive  
building with  
Mansard roof,  
3 chimneys**

The last photo shows Moses Goldfarb next to Vito Colapietro who owned the hotel next to his building. The Goldfarb block was bought by the town of Windsor Locks, along with all of the other businesses along Main Street, in the 1960s redevelopment of the Main Street area. It was torn down in the 1970s.



***Moses Golfarb, between Vito and Leo Colapietro. 1932. Rooming House has open window***

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