

Then & Now: Chelsea's Former Municipal Building

Do you know where the library was located before it moved to the McKune Library?

From Chelsea Area Historical Society/Jan Bernath

The Holmes and Walker general, furniture, and hardware store at 104 East Middle Street began in 1876 and was consumed by fire in 1909. A three-story late Victorian commercial building soon replaced the two storey-burned-out shell.

Known as the "Municipal Building" in 1946, the building housed the village offices, police and fire departments on the first floor, the library on the second floor, and a community space on the third floor with a temporary youth center and meeting place for various organizations. When the fire department relocated to West Middle Street in 1964, a brick fortress-like facade was added to the Village Offices in the 1970s and remained until the redevelopment. The building was vacated when a new police station opened in 2012 on South Main Street.

After many alterations over 100+ years, the building returned to its historic look thanks to its redevelopment by Chelsea Developer Joe Ziolkowski in 2015. Two businesses--Moran's Consignment and Breathe Yoga--now occupy the first floor. There are four apartments on the second and third floors, and occupants can enjoy the downtown vibe."

All photos courtesy of CAHS



The Holmes and Walker store was completely destroyed by fire in 1909.



The Holmes and Walker store was rebuilt soon thereafter.



Firemen and trucks in front of the Municipal Building.

The multi-use building redevelopment as it is today.

