

# Burnap Block / Central Hall Block

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## Introduction

A fascinating building existed at the North corner of Oak and Main Streets from 1863 to 1936. It extended from Oak Street to Coly's Hotel. The building went through two owners in that time. From 1865 to 1918, it was owned by Dr. Sidney R. Burnap, and was known as the "Burnap Block". From 1918 to 1938, it was owned by Charles Colli, and was known as the "Central Hall Block". Below is a photo of that three-story brick building which had four storefronts on Main Street. The arrow points to the Burnap Block, which is brick building with the chimneys on top.



*Burnap's Block is red brick building with chimneys to the left of Coly's Hotel, about 1920*

What made that building so fascinating? The answer is that it was a center of Windsor Locks social life, sporting events, and business. It housed a large room whose floor was built over steel springs, which were installed to enhance the experience of dancing and of playing sports, such as basketball. It was known as one of the best dance halls in the area. That same room was also used for operas, movies, theatrical shows, musicals, large meetings, basketball games and boxing matches. When this building was the Burnap Block, this room was called "The Burnap Opera House". When the building changed hands, that room became known as "Central Hall".

This building contained many small businesses such as Garbarino's Market, Outerson's mens furnishings shop, Carroll's millenary shop, a Polish rooming house, and large businesses such as the telephone and telegraph companies, and the Windsor Locks Journal.

This paper presents the history of this building throughout its life as the Burnap Block and later as the Central Hall Block. This history is presented by means of 38 newspaper articles. The narrative of this paper presents the history of the building as described in the 38 articles. The 38 articles which are included. The reason for including them is that reading the descriptions of what was happening as written when it was happening, is far more interesting than reading a recent summary of the articles. The articles are short and easy to read. A second reason for including the actual articles is that Windsor Locks High School and Middle School students who are doing Windsor Locks history projects can have full and easy access to these "primary sources" without having to look them up themselves. While these articles are available on the internet, they are only accessible through the [GenealogyBank.com](http://GenealogyBank.com) website which requires a paid subscription.

Here is a brief history of this building:

- Built in 1863 by Fred Abbe.
- Bought in about 1865 by Dr. Sidney R. Burnap of Windsor Locks, and known during his ownership as the Burnap Block.
- Bought by Charles Colli in 1918 and known as the Central Hall Block during his ownership.
- Bought by Graziano Graziani in 1938, and torn down to make a one story building which housed the A&P.
- The A&P shut down in the late 1960s, when the Windsor Locks government forcibly bought all of the shops on Main St for it's "re-development" program. Under that program, the building was demolished in the 1970s.

This paper is organized as follows:

- Section 1 - the Burnap Block
- Section 2 - Central Hall Block
- Section 3 - A&P building
- Section 4 - Conclusions
- Appendix A - a 1938 newspaper article which gives a brief history of the building
- Appendix B - Dr. Stanley Burnap
- Appendix C - Mr. Charles Colli

## **Section 1 - The Burnap Block (1865 - 1918)**

This section covers the period after Dr. Burnap bought the building from Fred Abbe in about 1865, to when his estate sold the building to Charles Colli in 1918. Let's look at what clippings from three Springfield newspapers (the Republican, the Union, and the Daily News) say about the Burnap Block during that time.

An April 30, 1955 article, which describes the history of the Windsor Locks Journal is at Appendix A. It says that the Windsor Locks Journal moved to the second floor of the Burnap Building in 1886. In 1896, the Journal was sold to a new owner, and the printing

operation was moved from the Burnap Building to the George P. Clark Co building on the banks of the canal.

The first newspaper references to the Burnap Building were in 1870. The first was an advertisement by T.F.Carroll's Millinery store, for a "first class Milliner".

**WANTED—A first class Milliner.** One who is willing to work for the interest of her employer. To such a liberal salary will be given or an interest in the business. Also one for our Branch Store in Rockville. Apply with reference to T. F. CARROLL, Burnap's Block, Windsor Locks, Ct. m36d

*Springfield Republican, March 3, 1870*

On June 18, 1870, Mr. Carroll ran an ad saying he wanted to buy a second-hand, medium size, fireproof safe.

**WANTED—A second hand. medium size, fire-proof SAFE.** Address, stating size, make and price, THOS F. CARROLL, Burnap's Block, Windsor Locks, Conn. j16 3d

*Springfield Republican, June 18, 1870*

In 1873, the Windsor Locks news section of the newspaper included the following statement that the "Merry-ten social club" would hold a ball at Burnap's Block.

The "Merry-ten social club" give a ball at Burnap's hall on Friday evening.  
A Mr Cooke has opened a dry goods and grocery store in Percy's Main street block.

*Springfield Republican, Oct. 22, 1873*

On June 3, 1875, Mr. Thomas Carrol placed an ad for three more first class milliners.

**WANTED—Immediately, three first-class Milliners,** to whom liberal salary will be given. THOS. F. CARROLL, Burnap's Block, Windsor Locks, Ct. j26

*Springfield Republican, June 3, 1875*

On Dec 4, 1876, a single line in the Windsor Locks news section says that Mr. W. A. Dwight is remodeling Dr. Burnap's old office to turn it into a jewelry store.

**W. A. Dwight is remodeling Dr Burnap's old office on Main street for a jewelry store.**  
*Springfield Republican, Dec 4, 1876*

The next mention of the Burnap's Block was on Oct. 24, 1885, where there was a short news article saying a meeting of the Democrats had occurred in Burnap's Hall.

**Windsor Locks.**  
**THE DEMOCRATIC SENATORIAL CONVENTION.**  
The 3d senatorial district democrats met in Burnap's hall at Windsor Locks yesterday morning, with C. T. Inslee of East Windsor as chairman and H. C. Douglass of Windsor Locks secretary. H. S. Woodward of Enfield, C. E. Woodward of East Windsor and T. F. McCarthy of Windsor Locks were chosen a committee on credentials and resolutions. The informal ballot gave James T. Coogan of Windsor Locks 9 votes, J. P. Gray of Enfield 3, Judge M. H. Bancroft of East Windsor 3, and Thomas Loomis of Windsor 4. Mr Coogan was elected on the formal ballot. The convention chose T. W.

*Springfield Republican, Oct 24, 1885*

On May 27, 1887, the women of St. Paul's church will hold a strawberry and ice cream festival and fair in the Burnap Hall.

**The women of St Paul's church will hold a strawberry and ice-cream festival and fair June 15 in Burnap's hall. The proceeds will be used for the women's fund of the church.**  
*Springfield Republican May 27, 1887*



On Nov.24, 1888, a high society Ball was held at Burnap's Hall which had the most important people from Windsor Locks including E. R. Bailey, J.R. Montgomery and Alfred Woods Converse. This was "high society" in Windsor Locks.

The ball in Burnap's hall last evening was a society event that drew out the "bon ton" of the Locks. There were many invited guests from Hartford and other towns while Representative McCarthy did the prompting from a full-dress suit. Among those present were E. B. Bailey, J. R. Montgomery, George M. Montgomery, A. W. Converse and ladies. There were 32 couples in all on the floor.

*Springfield Republican, Nov.25,1888*

On January 1, 1898, the New England telephone and telegraph company moved its office from the Pease Block (Allen Pease's store) to the Burnap Block. The Pease block was on the South corner of Oak and Main Streets, while the Burnap Block was on the North corner.

The New England telephone and telegraph company is moving its office from Pease's block to the southeast room in the Burnap block, the increasing business demanding more room than was available in the old quarters.

*Springfield Reupbican, Jan.1, 1898*

On January 14, 1904, an article was published saying the Burnap Opera House is in need of more exits in case of an emergency.

**POOR EXITS AT WINDSOR LOCKS.**  
**Need of Improvement in Burnap Opera House.**

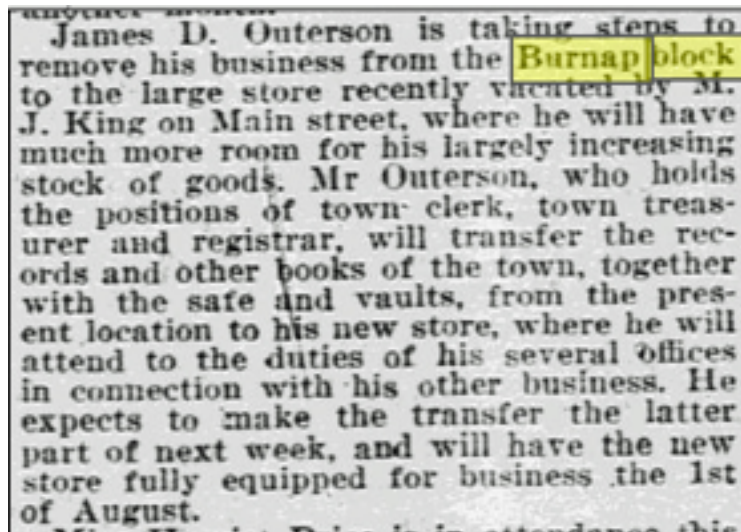
The **Burnap** opera house at Windsor Locks, Ct., the principal amusement house in the town, is poorly equipped with exits, and if a fire broke out during a performance or affair where a large audience was present it is almost certain there would be a loss of life. The opera house is on the

third floor in the **Burnap block** on Main street, and the main entrance is so constructed that a stranger going into the opera house would require a guide to find the way to the second flight of stairs, and would still need assistance to locate the entrance to the main floor of the opera house. The entrance on Main street leading to the first floor is amply large, and meets all requirements for a hasty exit, but at the top of the stairs the passage to the second floor leads through a long corridor, on both sides of which are office rooms. At the extreme end of the corridor a short stairway leads to the south, at the top of which is a small landing, then another short stairway leads to the north, and at the top a narrow hallway leads in a circular fashion to the entrance to the main floor of the opera house. At the end of the corridor, before reaching the second flight of steps to the opera house, there is an exit leading to a side street, which could be used to advantage if a person succeeded in getting as far as the corridor.

There is but one double door leading from the opera house floor, and with no fire escapes on the building what the consequences would be if a fire broke out or a panic ensued can only be conjectured. There are no adjoining buildings at the front or rear where it would be possible to make an escape in case of a fire, and if one broke out in the corridor or stairway the only plan of escape would be to jump to the ground about 25 or 30 feet below. With a little expenditure it seems as though the place could be made safer by the building of at least two fire escapes at the rear of the building. Memorial hall is provided with ample accommodations in case of fire, as it is a modern building and has broad stairs and passageways.

*Springfield Republican,  
Jan. 14, 1904*

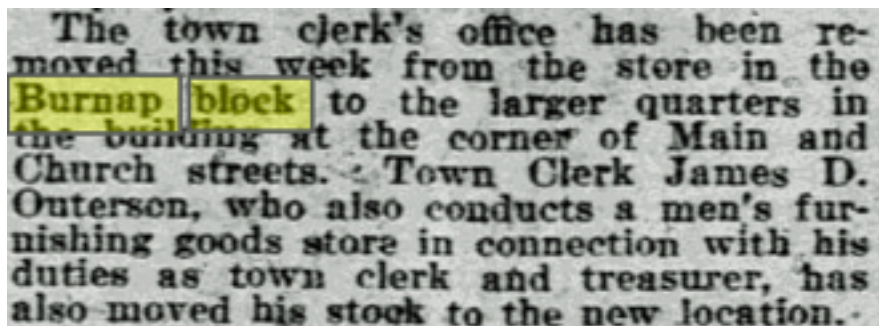
On July 10, 1904, James D. Outerson, who was the town clerk, the town treasurer and registrar, as well as a businessman, is moving out of the Burnap Block to a store on Main St.



James D. Outerson is taking steps to remove his business from the Burnap block to the large store recently vacated by M. J. King on Main street, where he will have much more room for his largely increasing stock of goods. Mr Outerson, who holds the positions of town clerk, town treasurer and registrar, will transfer the records and other books of the town, together with the safe and vaults, from the present location to his new store, where he will attend to the duties of his several offices in connection with his other business. He expects to make the transfer the latter part of next week, and will have the new store fully equipped for business the 1st of August.

*Springfield Republican, July 10, 1904*

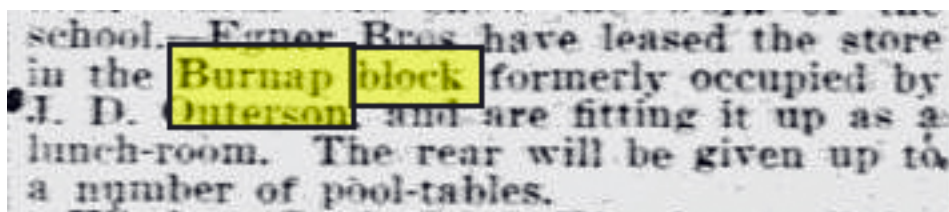
The previous article did not say what type of business that Mr. Outerson was in, and it did not say where he was moving. However, in the next article, both of those omissions are corrected. He is moving to a store on the corner of Main and Church Streets, and his business is men's furnishings.



The town clerk's office has been removed this week from the store in the Burnap block to the larger quarters in the building at the corner of Main and Church streets. Town Clerk James D. Outerson, who also conducts a men's furnishing goods store in connection with his duties as town clerk and treasurer, has also moved his stock to the new location.

*Springfield Republican, July 23, 1904*

The Egner Brothers have decided to refurbish the former quarters of Mr. Outerson, and turn them into a lunch room, as can be seen in the 1905 article.



school. Egner Bros have leased the store in the Burnap block formerly occupied by J. D. Outerson and are fitting it up as a lunch-room. The rear will be given up to a number of pool-tables.

*Springfield Republican, June 25, 1905*



Mr Martin F. Dumschot, a tailor who had opened a shop in the Burnap Block six months earlier, has been missing for six weeks.

There is considerable interest felt in the case of Martin F. Dumschot, who mysteriously disappeared from here about six weeks ago. He came here last fall and opened a tailor-shop in the **Burnap block**, where he conducted his business until the time of his disappearance. For some time no particular notice was taken of his absence, as it was thought that he had gone to visit relatives in other parts of the state. As the time went by and no news of the man came to his friends here, they became alarmed and started inquiries, which have so far been fruitless. His relatives were communicated with, but none of them knew anything of his whereabouts. He has a sister at South Windsor and brothers at Waterbury and Naugatuck, who fear that he has met with some misfortune.

*Springfield Republican, Apr. 8, 1906*

The next article is interesting because of how the newspaper wrote about African Americans in the early 1900s. The May 4, 1911 article is about a dance contest.

**Windsor Locks**, Conn., May 4.—Great rivalry exists in this town among the colored exponents of the terpsichorean art. Last Saturday evening, George Jackson, better known as "Shine," gave an exhibition in **Burnap's Opera House**. His performance aroused much jealousy among the colored brethren and he is out with a challenge to any colored man of this vicinity for a "wooden shoe" contest. He gives Albert Scott the preference for a contest to take place next Saturday night at **Burnap's** hall, for a side bet as large as Scott wishes to make it. The only requirements laid down by Jackson are that the money shall be posted before 6 p. m., May 6, and that M. T. Scanell shall referee.

*Springfield Daily News*  
*May 4, 1911*



The March 12, 1912 article is about the problem of a large amount of money being missing from the bank. There were disagreements as to how to solve the problem. While it doesn't say so in the article, Dr. Burnap's brother in law, Mr. Alfred Woods Converse, had stolen \$185,000 from the Windsor Locks savings bank. Many citizens were going to lose their savings. The problem of how to solve the problem was difficult and caused great controversy, as we can see in the March 12, 1912 article below.

**WINDSOR LOCKS, Ct., Saturday, Mch. 16.**  
A sentiment in favor of having the Windsor Locks savings bank placed in the hands of a receiver has been growing among many depositors who are clamoring for a speedy settlement of the bank muddle. This sentiment is being largely fostered by members of the committee who were elected at a depositors' meeting many weeks ago to represent the interests of depositors. Posters were put up about the town to-day calling for a meeting of depositors to be held in Burnap's opera house Monday evening, the 25th. The plan of

*The Springfield Republican, March 12, 1912*

The telephone company's business was growing rapidly and they needed more room for more hardware to upgrade the previous telephones which were of older technology. The Oct. 27, 1912 article describes the situation.

The telephone company has had gangs of men at work inside and out preparing for the changes in the system from the bell ringing method to the common battery system. The new quarters in the Burnap Block are being remodeled to meet the requirements of the company. Partitions have been put in and new floors are being laid and metal ceilings are to be put on some of the new rooms. New switchboards and other appliances of modern character will be installed, but it will be a couple of months more before the changes will be all made and the new system put into use.

*Springfield Union, Oct 27, 1912*

The following is a long article which gives the details of the expansion of the Telephone Company's business in Windsor Locks. They were expanding to take up almost an entire floor of the Burnap Block on a ten year lease with an option for five more years. For anyone interested in the nature of the Telephone Company's expansion, this is an excellent article. The first two sentences in the article are about the bank problem. Someone must have forgotten to edit the article before it went to press.

**Growth of Telephone Business Has  
Made Necessary Larger Quarters  
and Improved Service—More Sub-  
scribers Than in Thompsonville.**

From Our Special Correspondent.

WINDSOR LOOKS, Ct., Saturday, Aug. 3.

Quiétude, exceptional even for the summer season, reigned over Windsor Locks last week, unbroken except for a manifestation of the bitterness which is still rankling in many hearts over the bank issue. The chief incident in the progress of the town was the transfer of the telephone exchange headquarters to the Burnap block. The change is made necessary on account of the rapid growth of the business of the Windsor Locks branch of the company and is notable as a sign of the development of the town as a whole. Ten years ago the number of telephones installed in the town was very small, but to-day nearly every house has one and the operators are among the busiest people in the place. The transfer was made Wed-

nesday, when representatives of the Southern New England telephone company signed a lease with the owners of the Burnap block taking over the use of all but two rooms on the second floor of the building for 10 years with the privilege of renewing for five years more. It is planned to enlarge the present room for the operators by an extension of the switchboard. Lawyer Johnson's office has been turned over to the company and will be used as the office for Manager G. C. Rising, while the room adjoining that on the Main-street front is to be used as the stock room. Other rooms which have just been acquired are to be utilized as the wire chief's office, for testing apparatus and for the power plant and storage batteries. On the whole, the changes are sweeping ones and point to vastly increased facilities in conducting the company's business. It is proposed by the company to change the system for the exchange from the bell and magneto plan to the common battery, and this change will do away with the antiquated system of calling central in favor of the simpler method in use in all larger places. Previous to this it has been necessary to ring a bell before removing the receiver, but now merely taking down the receiver will call the operator. A special apparatus is to be affixed to the old instruments while the changes are being made, and when they are completed new instruments will be installed where they are required. The company hopes to have all the changes completed and the new system in good running order by the latter part of October, and is also talking of doing a certain amount of underground work, with a cable through Spring street. The Windsor Locks exchange now has a total of 302 subscribers and the Thompsonville exchange has 622, as compared with a total of about 200 in both sections 10 years ago.

**Springfield Republican**  
**Aug. 4, 1912**

The May 6, 1913 article, which follows, shows that the telephone company's new technology and the expansion worked very well.

#### **New Telephone System Works Well.**

The changes in the system in the central telephone office have been made without causing any hindrance in the service and the new method of caring for the calls is done in good manner by the operators. Since the "cut-over" the outside men have been calling at the houses or offices of the many subscribers to remove the handles so that no more ringing will be done and later the present instruments will be replaced by the improved type for the common battery system. The central office in the **Burnap block** is well adapted to care for the company's business now, as much more space on the second floor in the **block** is utilized by having all the rooms on that floor except one connected for the telephone company's affairs and all are equipped with the most modern appliances for the business.

*Springfield Republican, May 6, 1913*

While the following article has a headline about an assault, the more interesting information in the article of Aug 21, 1913, was that the top floor of the Burnap Building had a Polish boarding house in it.

#### **Sixty Days for Assault.**

John Kowolski was arrested by Officer Gogarty this morning in Windsor Locks for assaulting a woman boarder at the Polish boarding house on the top floor of the **Burnap block** in Main street. In the mixup Kowolski was pushed out of a window in the rear of the building, taking the wire screening and casing from the window with him. He turned a somersault in the air, landing on his feet. He was brought before Justice Lashin this noon and fined \$5 and costs of court and given 60 days in jail. He was taken to the Hartford county jail this afternoon.

*Springfield Republican, Aug 21, 1913*



Sewers are an absolute necessity for a growing town. The June 22, 1913 article tells about a meeting at the Burnap Block to vote on apportionment of the cost.

## **THE WINDSOR LOCKS SEWER.**

**Special Meeting Will Determine Apportionment of Cost—Interest in Loan Association—School Graduations.**

From Our Special Correspondent.

**WINDSOR LOCKS,** Ct., Saturday, June 21.

The last act of the sewer and sidewalk charter for the town will be enacted Wednesday evening at the special town-meeting in **Burnap's** opera house, and at which the voters will consider the acceptance of the two charters as passed by the General Assembly, and will vote upon such parts of the charters as require town action. That the charters will pass in the form they now stand seems to be unquestioned. A meeting of all the citizens of the town was held before the matter went to the Legislature, and at that time no objections were raised to either of the proposed charters as a whole. The only dis-

*Springfield Republican, June 22, 1913*

The Western Union Telegraph company, which was housed at the Train Depot, is being folded into the Telephone company. The details are covered in the July 26, 1913 article below.

### TELEGRAPH CHANGES.

#### Suffield Business to Be Transmitted from Windsor Locks.

SUFFIELD, Conn., July 25—Beginning Aug. 1 the local office of the Western Union Telegraph company at the depot and also that at the Windsor Locks depot will be closed and these offices transferred to the local division of the Southern New England Telephone company in the **Burnap block** in Windsor Locks. The combined business will be conducted by George C. Rising, the present manager of the telephone company. Along with the consolidating of the offices here, the telegraph company will discontinue the office at Thompsonville and persons wishing to send telegrams from Thompsonville, Hazardville and Somersville may call the Windsor Locks office without

any toll line charge.

This service is extended only to telephone subscribers. Agencies will be established at O. C. Bugbee's store in West Suffield, McMullen's store in Somersville and Allen's store in Hazardville for receiving messages, from where they will be telephoned to the operator at the center office in Windsor Locks. The local telephone central office will be equipped with the needed facilities for handling messages. An operator will be on duty from 8 o'clock in the morning to 8 o'clock in the evening and after that hour messages will be telephoned to Hartford and from there transmitted to their destination.

Louis Molinari, the automobile owner, who came near figuring in an accident at Fuller's corner, wishes to correct a statement published in this morning's paper. Instead of driving the truck he was in a light runabout with his two children and in turning out to the right to avoid an accident at the turn he ran into the drain at William S. Fuller's house and broke a small connection to the steering apparatus of the machine.

*Springfield Union*  
*July 26, 1913*

In the Jan 14, 1914 article, we see that there were two movie theaters operating in Windsor Locks. One was the Princess Theater, which was on top of Blanche's Bowling Alley on Grove St. The other was the Burnap Opera House, which also showed movies. In this article, we see that the Burnap Opera House agreed to stop showing movies, and the Princess Theatre will continue to operate as a movie theater.

The two moving picture houses that have been operated in competition for some time have been combined. Hereafter the pictures will be shown only in the **Princess theater** and the show in the Burnap opera house will be closed. George J. Rice of Thompsonville and M. Weiner of Hartford will manage the **theater.**

*Springfield Republican, Jan. 14, 1914*

In the Nov. 9, 1916 article, an interesting event is described. A number of drum and bugle corps will present a series of dance programs in Burnap's Hall.

The drum and bugle corps will give the first of a series of novelty dances in **Burnap's** hall Saturday night. They will have as guests each night three different corps from other places in the state and previous to the dance they will give a street parade and afterward some of them will give drills in the hall.

*Springfield Republican, Nov. 9, 1916*

A Columbus Day ball at Burnap's Hall, with music provided by an orchestra is described in the Oct. 8, 1916 article.

Plans for the celebration of Columbus day have been perfected by Italian societies of the town. The parade, headed by Colt's band of Hartford, will march through the principal streets Thursday afternoon. It will start at 2.30 o'clock. A dance in **Burnap's** hall has been arranged for the evening, for which Groves's orchestra will furnish the music. It is expected that stores will close at noon.

*Springfield Republican*  
*Oct. 8, 1916*

Up until now, the telephone and telegraph companies had been integrating under the Telephone company at the Burnap Block. However, the Feb. 12, 1916 article shows a change. Now the telegraph company is moving out of the Burnap Block to the Carlisle Block, although business between the two companies will remain as it was.

The local office of the Western Union telegraph company will be moved next week from the telephone office in the **Burnap block** to another office by itself in the Bidwell **block**, where the business will be conducted in conjunction with the telephone company, as at present.

*Springfield Republican, Feb 12, 1916*



That concludes the history of the Burnap Block while it was under the ownership of Dr. Sidney Burnap, who died in 1901. The building stayed in the estate of Dr. Burnap until it was sold to Charles Colli in 1918.

## Section 2 - Central Hall (1918 - 1938)

After 1916, no more newspaper articles could be found which referred to the Burnap Block. From 1922 to 1934, the Springfield newspapers had 122 articles which referred to "Central Hall". Central Hall was the former Burnap Block. Those 122 articles are highly repetitive. This section presents ten of the 122 newspaper articles to give the reader a feel of what was going on at Central Hall. Most of the articles were about basketball scores or the results of boxing matches. This set of ten newspaper articles is representative of the full set of 122.

The floor of the dance hall of the Burnap Building which was built over springs remained in use in Central Hall. That was the big room now used primarily for boxing matches, basketball games, and meetings.

The first newspaper article mentioning Central Hall appeared on Jan. 27, 1921. It announced that the next night there would be a basketball game in Central Hall, followed by a dance. That is an interesting combination.

The Churchills of Windsor Locks will play the Foster Five of Springfield to-night in Central hall, Windsor Locks. Dancing will follow. The Churchills would like to hear from teams 120 to 130. Address John Fitzpatrick, 17 Church street, Windsor Locks, Ct.  
*Springfield Daily News, Jan. 27, 1921*

The next article (Feb. 23, 1922) says that the Suffield Athletic Club basketball team will play the Windsor Locks "Churchills" in Central Hall.

The Suffield Athletic club basketball team will play with the Churchills in the Central hall Thursday evening.  
*Springfield Republican*  
*Feb. 23, 1922*

The Feb. 1, 1926 article says that the Chicopee Nonotucks will play the Windsor Locks "Advertisers".

The Nonotucks of Chicopee will play the Windsor Lock Advertisers tonight at Central hall, Windsor Locks. The Skiptown squad will make the trip by automobile and will leave Chicopee at 6.  
*Springfield Republican, Feb. 1, 1926*

In the Jan 25, 1927 article, the Windsor Locks "Advertisers" have beaten the Springfield team. Two games were played. The second was between two women's teams. Both the Windsor Locks and Springfield teams each had a mens and a women's team

**Windsor Locks, Ct., Jan. 24**—The Springfield A. A. collapsed completely before the powerful offensive of the **Windsor Locks Advertisers** in a five-minute overtime periods at **Central hall** here tonight and were beaten, 36 to 26. The score at the end of the regulation game stood at 23-all. Torrant featured for the Ads while Leyden starred for the Athletics. In a preliminary game the Advertiser Girls defeated the Diamond Match Maidens, 10 to 8. The scores:—

<b>Windsor Locks</b>	<b>A.</b>	<b>Springfield A. A.</b>	
<b>B. F. P.</b>	<b>B. F. P.</b>	<b>B. F. P.</b>	
Potter, lf	2 2 6	Hayden, rg	0 1 1
Snelgrove, lf	0 0 0	Christfori, lg	1 1 3
Tarrant, rf	4 3 11	Smith, c	3 1 7
Midden, c	4 1 0	Leyden, rf	3 2 8
Lord, lg	1 1 3	Fitzgerald, lf	2 3 7
Waterman, rg	2 1 5		
Conroy, rg	1 0 2		
	14 8 36		9 8 26

Referee, Johnson. Time, 20-minute halves and five minutes overtime.

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<b>Advertiser Girls</b>	<b>Diamond M. Girls</b>
<b>B. F. P.</b>	<b>B. F. P.</b>
Coll, lf	1 0 2
V.Shell'ton, rf	1 0 2
Cameron,	0 0 0
Sweeney, lg	0 0 0
D.Shell'ton, rg	3 0 0
	5 0 10
	</

The Jan. 21, 1928 article describes a High School basketball game between Windsor Locks High School and Bloomfield High School.

**AT WINDSOR LOCKS**  
**Windsor Locks, Ct., Jan. 20**—Windsor Locks High defeated the Bloomfield High quintet here tonight in the Central hall, 30 to 17. Karges starred for the winners while Lynch scored for the losers. In a preliminary game the Windsor Locks Second team beat the Bloomfield seconds 20 to 7. The score:—

Windsor Locks	Bloomfield High
B. F. P.	B. F. P.
Huntley, lf	4 2 10
Byrne, rf	0 1 1
Karges, rf	8 1 13
McHugh, c	0 0 0
Dowd, lg	0 1 1
Marionl, rg	1 3 5
	11 8 30

Bloomfield High	B. F. P.
Grady, rg	1 2 4
Lynch, lg	1 2 4
Bettors, c	1 1 3
Douglas, rf	1 1 3
Tyrrell, lf	1 1 3
	5 7 17

*Springfield Republican, Jan. 21, 1928*

The Jan. 20, 1929 article is especially interesting for Windsor Locks residents who remember or remember hearing about Marconi's Luncheonette, which was run by three brothers: Louis, John and Angelo. This article mentions Louie Marconi and "Andy" Marconi. The latter must have been an error. Possibly they meant "Angie," which would have referred to Angelo, but there is no way to know.

## WINDSOR LOCKS SCENE OF AMATEUR FIGHTS

The New **Central** Boxing club of **Windsor Locks, Ct.**, will put on its first amateur show Tuesday night at **Central hall** with an all-star show. The first bout is to get under way at 8 and Matchmaker Fitzpatrick expects to handle a large crowd.

Sailor Al of Thompsonville is scheduled to meet Walter Kress of Hartford in the star bout of the evening. Earnie Vance, **Windsor Locks** boy, meets Frank Pittlak of Chicopee in a grudge fight at 165 pounds. There are also several Springfield boys on the card, among them the O'Brien brothers. Billy meets Andy Marconi of **Windsor Locks** while Wally mixes it up with Jimmy Martin, also of **Windsor Locks**.

Frankie Columbo of **Windsor Locks** who put up such a good showing with Merino Pagnoul is to meet Tommy Flanagan of Springfield at 140 pounds. Other bouts find Jimmy Quagliaroli of **Windsor Locks** meeting Billy Krack of this city, Jimmy DiSanti of Springfield meeting Dominick Lonnotti of **Windsor Locks** and Joe Mandelli of this city against Louie Marconi of **Windsor Locks**.

*Springfield Republican, Jan. 20, 1929*

The Jan. 23, 1929 article refers to the results of the boxing matches which were announced in the previous article. Louie Marconi beat his opponent, Joe Mandell, of Springfield, but "Andy" Marconi was defeated by Billy O'Brien of Springfield.

## Pitlak Wins Main Bout On **Windsor Locks** Card

**Windsor Locks, Ct., Jan. 22**—Frank Pittlak of Chicopee won a three-round decision over Earnie Vance of **Windsor Locks** here tonight in the main bout of the amateur show held at the **Central hall** under the New **Central** boxing club. Over 500 fans turned out for this third card. In the semi-final Sailor Al of Thompsonville won on a foul from Walter Kress of Hartford in the third round.

Billy O'Brien of Springfield won the decision over Andy Marconi of **Windsor Locks**. Frankie Columbo of **Windsor Locks** knocked out Tommy Flanagan of Springfield in the first round. Louie Marconi of **Windsor Locks** defeated Joe Mandell of Springfield by a decision, while Jimmy Martin of **Windsor Locks** won the decision over Al Farricelli of Springfield, the latter subbing for Wally O'Brien of the same town.

*Springfield Republican, Jan. 23, 1929*



The Garbarino market in Central Hall Block was broken into, as we see in the Dec. 27, 1929 newspaper article. The interesting thing about this writeup is that it makes clear the entire building that used to be the Burnap Block was then known as the "Central Hall Block." The term "Central Hall" didn't just refer to the Hall that was used for boxing, basketball, meetings, etc.

The fruit store conducted by D. Garbarino in the Central hall block was broken into last night and about \$6 and some merchandise stolen. Entrance was gained by breaking the protecting shield on a rear window and lowering the top half. No arrests have been made.

*Springfield Union, 12-27-1929*

The Nov. 23, 1933 article gave the result of a meeting of the Athletic Association which decided to start a basketball team for the winter at Central Hall.

At the meeting of the Athletic Association Monday night it was decided to foster a basketball team for the winter to play weekly or oftener at home and to engage the Central hall for that purpose. Joseph Conroy will be manager.

*Springfield Republican, Nov. 23, 1933*

The newspaper article (March 15, 1934) says that the Windsor Locks Advertisers will play the Chicopee Promoting quintet at Central Hall.

## Chicopee Pros Play Windsor Locks Tonigh

The Chicopee Promoting quintet travels to Windsor Locks, Ct., tonigh where they are scheduled to meet the Windsor Locks Advertisers at Central hall. Last week the Nutmeggers, with several local hoopsters in their lineup took the measure of the Pros at Chicopee. The following players will make the trip to Windsor Locks: Coach Bennie Banas, Manager Cyran, "Ski" Linchan, Pasterczyk, Stanek, Moynihan, Les Maynard, Frank Adamsk and "Flee" Niemiec. The start will be made from the Chicopee Polish National home at 6.15.

*Springfield Republican*

1934 was the last year in which newspaper articles mentioned Central Hall.

## Section 3 - The A&P Building

In 1938, Charles Colli sold the Central Hall Block to Graziano Graziani, who razed the building and replaced it with a single story building which extended from Coly's Hotel to Oak Street. It had two storefronts. The largest store was the A&P supermarket. The smaller store, which was on the corner of Oak and Main Streets, was at one time a Western Auto store which was owned by Don LaRussa, who later turned it into the original "D.F.LaRussa's" appliance store. That pair of storefronts didn't change much until 1979 when all the stores along Main St were razed for the process called "Re-Development". Below is a photo of The A&P and the corner store before re-development.



Corner of Oak and Main. Don LaRussa's Appliance store, and the A&P. LaRussa originally had his Western Auto Store here. Previously the Central Hall Building occupied both spaces

## Section 4 - Conclusions

This article has traced the history of the building built on the corner of Main and Oak Streets in 1863. No information was available about the building between the time it was built and the time when it was bought by Dr. Sidney R. Burnap in about 1865. It became known as "Burnap's Block," and it soon became a social and business center of Windsor Locks. It contained a number of stores, some major businesses such as the Windsor Locks Journal and the telephone and telegraph companies. It also house a large hall known as Burnap's Opera House which held operas and shows as well as movies, dances and large meetings. We saw 27 newspaper articles which detailed the happenings and the changes in the Burnap Block. Those newspaper articles were from Springfield newspapers from 1870 to 1916.

Dr. Burnap died in 1901 and his estate sold the Burnap Block to Charles Colli in 1918. It then became known as the Central Hall Block. Research turned up 122 newspaper articles about the Central Hall block from 1918 to 1934. Those 122 articles turned out to be highly repetitive, and ten of them, which were representative of the entire set were presented and summarized. While Central Hall continued to house businesses and stores, as did the Burnap Block, most of the news storied were about sporting events in the big room that used to be called "Burnap's Opera House". That room became more focussed on sports, especially basketball and boxing. It was also used for meetings and for dances. We saw some change in the use of the building from when it was the Burnap Block to when it became the Central Hall Block, but it remained a social and business center of Windsor Locks.

The building was razed after it was bought in 1935 by Graziano Graziani, and replaced with a one story building housing the A&P and a smaller store on the corner of Oak and Main Streets. Not much changed with the building until the redevelopment of Main St in 1979, when the building was torn down.

I thank Mickey Danyluk for his encouragement and help with this article. After reading a draft of this paper, he provided valuable feedback and further information for incorporation into the text, as well as the photographs of Dr. Burnap and of his house.

I hope the reader enjoyed and profited from this article, and I thank him/her for reading it. Please pass it on to anyone else you know who might be interested in Windsor Locks history.

Mel Montemerlo



## APPENDIX A: Newspaper article with the history of Burnap Block

**GRAZIANI GRAZIANO**  
**BUYS BURNAP BLOCK**

Windsor Locks, Nov. 4—Transfer papers have been recorded in the town clerk's office for the sale of the Burnap block one of the oldest business blocks in this town. The property has been purchased by Graziani Graziano of Chestnut street, local contractor and builder, from the City bank of Norwalk.

The property is located on the corner of Main and Oak streets and is a three story brick structure, with four stores on the ground floor. The block was erected in 1863 by the late Fred Abbe and a few years later was purchased by Dr Sidney R. Burnap. In 1918 the late Charles Colli of this town bought this property and in 1929 the City bank of Norwalk obtained possession and Charles D. Colton of this town has acted as their agent here.

For many years part of the second floor was used by the Southern New England Telephone company for the local telephone exchange and business office, and that section of the building has been vacant practically all the time since the telephone company moved to their new building on Spring street, several years ago.

When the building was erected, the third floor of the building was built with heavy arch springs under the floor, which adapted the hall especially for dancing and for many years this dance hall was known for miles around as having one of the best floor surfaces in this section for dancing. The hall was used for many years as a moving picture theater, and later became the home of the Central theater when owned by Mr Colli. For several years the hall has not been used, having been condemned by state inspectors on account of inadequate exits.

The new owner, Mr Graziano, expects to repair and remodel the block.

*Springfield Republican, Nov. 5, 1938*

There is an error in the above article. The man's name was Graziano Graziani, not Graziani Graziano.

## APPENDIX B: Dr. Sidney R. Burnap

Information on Dr. Sidney R. Burnap was hard to find. He was born in 1833 and he died in 1901. He was married to Clara A. Converse Burnap (1842 - 1938). They had two daughters, Mary Converse Burnap (1869 - 1947), and Clara Annie Burnap. He was a physician and a financier.

He and his family lived in a very large house on Maple Street. It sat on about 100 acres of land. The house was called "The Castle" by some. The 26 room house was a popular place for town picnics and socials gatherings. When the Burnap family sold their estate, the land was subdivided and put up for auction. According to Mickey Danyluk, a fire in a barn at the Burnap estate was the impetus for Windsor Locks to form a Fire Department. One can assume that Dr. Burnap had a good deal of influence in the town government. Dr. Burnap died on Sept. 3, 1901, at the age of 68. He is buried in Grove Cemetery in Windsor Locks. Below is a portrait of Dr. Burnap, and an 1880 photo of his estate with his family in front.



*Dr. Sidney Rogers Burnap (1833-1901)*



*Dr. Sidney R. Burnap family and estate 1880*

Burnap's brother-in-law, Alfred Woods Converse, a highly esteemed man who served as both the town's postmaster and manager of the Windsor Locks Bank, died in the Burnap mansion. He had shot himself in the chest with a pistol while in his own home. He claimed he was cleaning his pistol when it discharged. He called for help and was taken to his sister's house where he died on January 14, 1912. His sister was Dr. Burnap's widow. (information from Mickey Danyluk).

Two weeks after Mr. Converse's death, Windsor Locks Bank officials confirmed that \$185,000 had been stolen from the safe. Alfred Woods Converse was an important man in Windsor Locks. He was the Town Clerk, head of the GAR (Civil War veterans association), head of the Masons, Treasurer of the Windsor Locks Savings Bank, and Postmaster of Windsor Locks.

## **Appendix C: Charles Colli (1882 - 1938)**

Charles Colli was born in 1882 and died in 1938. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. He was married to Lena A. Massino, who was born in 1876 and died in 1930. They had one son, Charles, who was born in 1905 and died in 1930. Here is a photo of Charles Colli with his first business in Windsor Locks, a grocery and meat cart. He used a cart as his store. The 1913 Aero Map of Windsor Locks lists a business owned by Charles Colli as: "Colli, Charles. Flour, Grain and Feed. Center St." He was also the Fire Chief.



*Charles Colli, Meat and Groceries Cart Store*



*Charles Colli  
Windsor Locks Fire Chief  
1916 - 1922*