

constructed c. 1960

Kennedy's - Millikens · 400 River Street



While some might see the building and call it an albatross or black sheep, the fact remains that the “modern” building at 400 River Street has, since its construction, always been out of place in comparison to the other historic buildings located in Downtown Manistee.

In 1954, the Kennedys decided to purchase the lot on the northwest corner of River and Maple Street in order to construct a large and modern clothing store which they operated until 1962. The building sat vacant for a number of years and was purchased by Stan Andrie of Muskegon. In 1964, a fashion store, named Milliken's, expressed interest in occupying the relatively new building.

It was subsequently announced that Milliken's would not only be moving in at 400 River St. but would also be remodeling the inside and outside of the store to present customers with a unique shopping experience. The new store had approximately 5,500 square feet of selling space and a second floor was planned to be put into operation that would include a modern tearoom overlooking the Manistee River which runs behind the property. The second story was never added.



As the years passed, the store remained at 400 River St. with interior remodeling done in order to accommodate the changing styles of the decades. In 1986 it was announced that the store would be expanding by tripling the size from 5,200 square feet to 15,000 square feet. For this expansion to take place, two buildings located to the west of the store were demolished in November 1986. Work continued on the development of the new Milliken's store through 1987 with the expanded store opening in 1988. The building was later occupied by Stage-Milliken and Glik's.

Manistee Commercial Historic District – Listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places