

1911 Bangor Fire

The Great Fire of 1911 destroyed much of Bangor's business district in about eight hours, including two banks, the library and more than 70,000 volumes, mansions, more than 250 homes — nearly 400 buildings were reduced to rubble and two lives were lost that late April day.

One historic building, which has housed Rudman Winchell since 1971, was under construction at the time of the fire. The Graham Building at 84 Harlow St., an impressive Arts and Crafts era edifice, was completed later that year. In keeping with the Rudman Winchell's ardent devotion to local tradition and community history, the law firm refurbished the Graham Building inside and out in celebration of the building's centennial anniversary in 2011.

And although many buildings suffered a different fate in the blaze, the city wouldn't be stopped. Bangor began to immediately rebuild with businesses popping up in what were then known as shacks, but also some of today's most storied and prominent downtown buildings were constructed.

Looking down Main Street, it's hard to imagine the smoldering ruins that were removed to make way for modern structures, many of which stand as tall and proud today as they did in the early part of the 20th Century.

