Grand Rapids Press building demolished

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After three weeks of internal demolition work at the former Grand Rapids Press building, demolition crews began taking down the 49-year-old downtown landmark Monday.

The building at 155 Michigan St. NW is coming down to make way for Michigan State University’s $85.1 million Grand Rapids Biomedical Research Building at the northeast corner of the parcel.

Two other building sites on the 4.3-acre site will be developed in the future.

Monday, cranes began ripping away the western portion of the building’s third floor, where composing room crews once designed and assembled the daily newspaper.

Earlier this month, 20,000-square-feet of asbestos floor tiles, 2,500 feet of pipe insulation, and 5,900 fluorescent light bulbs were removed from the building.

The building was used as headquarters for The Grand Rapids Press from 1966 until 2012, when the building was sold to Michigan State University for $12 million.

The Press’ editorial and marketing staff now are at 169 Monroe Ave. NW. The newspaper is printed in Walker.