

Second Building Bought To House Store Operation

By RALPH DODD, Post Real Estate Editor

Abe Donsky, president of the Houston Jewelry & Distributing Company, has purchased the second of the two downtown buildings now occupied by the Star Furniture Company, and announced Saturday that he will completely remodel them to house his store operation.

Donsky acquired the first of the two Star Furniture buildings early this year, a three-story structure on the southwest corner of the Rusk-Milam intersection. The second is a two-story building which fronts on Rusk and adjoins the first structure on the west.

EACH OF THE buildings occupies 5,000 square feet of land. Donsky is reported to

have paid a total of about \$425,000 for the two properties. He said remodeling will begin Oct 1.

Melvyn Wolff, president of the Star Furniture Company, said his firm will move from the downtown site it has occupied for about 40 years into greatly expanded quarters somewhere on the Gulf Freeway.

Wolff said the new Star store will have an estimated 160,000 square feet of space for general offices, warehousing and showrooms. He declined to give the address of the new store, but said an announcement will be made shortly.

IT HAS BEEN reliably reported that the Star Furniture Company is negotiating to lease the Gulf Freeway buildings recently vacated by the Finger Furniture Company.

Donsky said remodeling plans for the newly acquired quarters for Houston Jewelry & Distributing are being drawn by Arnold Hendler & Associates, ar

construction plans call for completion by Feb 1.

Until that date, he said, Houston Jewelry & Distributing will continue to operate in its present store on the ground floor of the Houston Club Building.

THE REMODELED buildings will have a total of 25,000 square feet of floor space, compared to the 10,000 square feet now occupied in the Houston Club Building, Donsky said.

Founded by Donsky in 1953, the firm was believed to be the first membership-type operation in Houston. It then occupied 2,000 square feet of

space on the second floor of a downtown building. It moved to the Houston Club Building in July of 1955.

"The business prospered from the day we opened," Donsky recalls. "Houston needed an operation of this type."

The second of the two downtown buildings was purchased by Donsky from Moya Wicks Jr for a reported price of about \$175,000, or \$35 for each square foot of ground. The reported price for the corner lot with its three-story building, purchased earlier, was \$245,000 or just under \$50 per square foot of ground.

