

Memory Lane

EXPLORE THE PAST OF DOWNTOWN HAMILTON

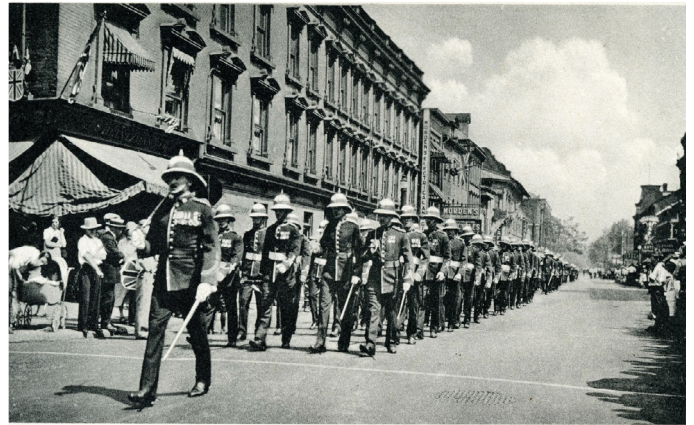
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Heintzman Building (Hi & Buy)

81 King Street East is the former eastern end unit of a related commercial row known as Stinson's Block, which was constructed circa 1837 for prominent merchant and businessman Ebenezer Stinson, for which Stinson Street is named. The building was occupied by merchant Joshua Brethour in the 1830s, Jeremiah Hogan's men's clothing from 1862 to 1883 and William Waugh's gent's furnishings from 1885 to 1912.

In 1912, the building was sold to Heintzman & Company Limited who completely renovated the building with Renaissance Revival influences and operated their piano business on the premises from 1913 to 1957. Theodore Heintzman was born in Berlin, Germany in 1817 and after an apprenticeship as a cabinet and piano maker eventually became a master cabinet maker. In 1850 he left Germany for America and then Canada. He started his business by hand in Toronto. When Theodore died in 1899 his sons expanded the business and opened branches in other Canadian cities. The Heintzman Company built a reputation for quality and were the undisputed leader of the Canadian industry. They became the instrument of choice for musicians, music teachers and concert halls.

The Hamilton branch was managed by A.L. Garthwaite when they moved into new premises at the corner of King and John Streets. The 12,000 square foot three-storey building included a recital hall, four soundproof Victrola rooms, several piano and player rooms, and a repair department on the third floor. The choice of street corner location was conscious and made "possible a splendid show window" in which the plate glass had already been installed.



B. 307. The Thirteenth Royal Regiment on Parade in Hamilton, Ont.

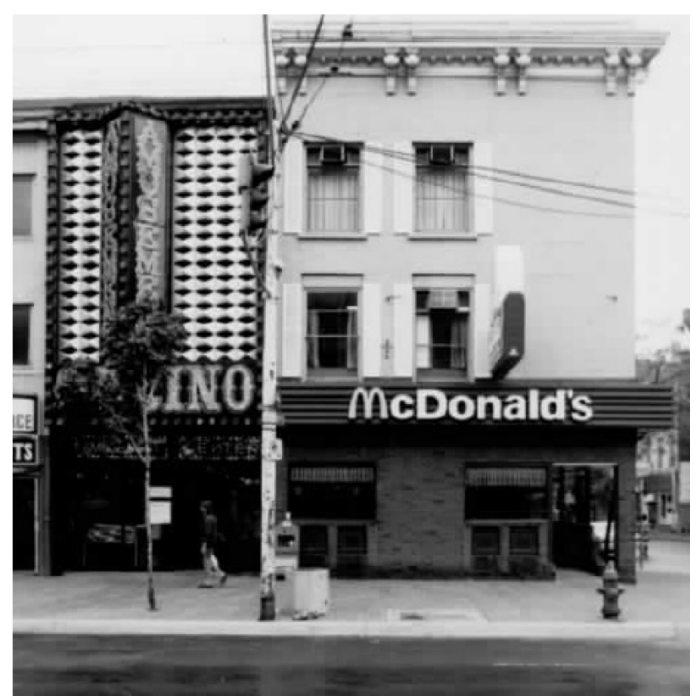
John St at King Royal Regiment Parade in the 1910s. The Heintzman building is seen here on the corner.

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Heintzman Building ...continued

Dolcis Company Limited purchased the Heintzman Building in 1957 and Dolcis' Shoes operated out of the building from 1958 to 1972.

McDonald's purchased the building in 1974 to house its flagship Hamilton restaurant in the first storey and area offices and a training centre above. McDonald's occupied the building until 1991. In 2012, 81 King Street East housed Hi & Buy Dollar Discount and Beauty Supplies.



A photo from the 1970s of McDonalds on this corner, it was a popular stop for many when downtown.