

Memory Lane

EXPLORE THE PAST OF DOWNTOWN HAMILTON

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1-9 King Street East

1 King Street East was constructed circa 1843 for Sir Allan N. MacNab as part a commercial row, informally referred to as MacNab's Block, consisting of 1 to 9 King Street East and 2 to 6 James Street North around the other side of the building. Sir Allen MacNab was a renowned politician, the Prime Minister of the United Province of Canada from 1854 to 1856, and the original owner of Dundurn Castle. MacNab's Block was constructed in a prominent location at James and King Streets between Gore Park and the former City Hall, is one of the only remaining pre-1850 commercial rowhouses in the Gore and is one of the earliest remaining commercial blocks in the downtown core. As you will notice, it is the only building of all four corners at this King and James St. intersection to survive from a much earlier time.

1 King Street East has housed a variety of businesses including merchant William Price (1840s), Lawson Brothers clothiers and dry goods (1853-1866), Donald Smith's Tailor Shop (1870-1879), and S. G. Treble's Gent's Furnishings (1885-1923). The ground floor of the building was divided into two commercial store fronts in the early-20th century, after which time 1 King Street East was occupied by the United Cigar Store (1939-1980s), and 3 King Street East was occupied by the Laura Secord Candy Shop (1924-1980s). Currently 1 King Street East is occupied by King and James Convenience and 3 King Street East is National Pizza & Wings.



Here we see the row of businesses from 1-9 King St. East in 1956 when 1 King St. was United Cigar Store, 3 King St. was Laura Secord Candy Shop, 5 King St. was D'Allaird's ladies wear, and 6 King St was People's Credit Jewellers.



A closer view of 1 and 3 King St. East in the background, 1955. Freshmen of McMaster University are put to work during their initiation, putting red feathers in doors and windows to announce the start of the Community Chest Campaign. Left to right, Gerald Gliuski, Donald Hill, Bob Judd, Carl Gladysz, Jack Hanna, Bill Goodwin and Larry Hencher.

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1-9 King Street East ...continued

5 King Street East has housed a variety of businesses including physician William Billings (1840s), Lawson Brothers Dry Goods (1851-54 and 1860-71), F. R. Smith's Tailor Shop (1890-1901), Christopher's Confectionary (1902-1933) and D'Allaird's ladies wear (1934-1977). D'Allaird's renovated the building in the mid-20th century, including blinding the upper storeys with contemporary cladding. 5 King Street is currently Crystal Shoes.

7 King Street East has been a Medical Hall in the mid-19th century, T. Bickle & Son chemists and druggists (1843-1874), Garland and Rutherford (1875-1901), L. K. Liggett (1920-1937) and People's Credit Jewellers (1938-1962). 7 King Street is currently Gino's Pizza. 7 King Street East was originally constructed with a side gable roof, projecting eaves and two-over-two hung windows in the upper storeys. The first storey has an entrance to the ground-floor commercial unit at 7 King Street East to the west, an entrance to the upper storeys (9 King Street East) to the east, and a glazed storefront in between.



A view of the corner even earlier in 1889.