

Memory Lane

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Bank of Montreal (Gowlings)

The building at 1-5 Main Street West, commonly known as the Bank of Montreal, is situated on a prominent parcel of land at one of downtown Hamilton's busiest intersections. The two-storey building was constructed in 1928 to the designs of architect Kenneth G. Rea, an independent practitioner from Montreal. Built on the site of the old Bank of Montreal head office building at the corner of James and Main streets.

The exterior of the building, excluding the western façade, and the interior features of the main banking hall are protected by an Ontario Heritage Trust conservation easement. The property is also designated by the City of Hamilton

The bank building was constructed in 1928 and served as the Hamilton Public Library's Reference Library for a time after the bank moved to Jackson Square. Later it was home to the Monopoli Night Club and is now occupied by Gowling WLG.



Here, Mrs. Ilona Feldman (Foreground), Mrs. Doris Gasse, and Miss Katherine Greenfield are seen inside the old Hamilton Public Library's Reference Library, located at 55 Main Street West. 1973.

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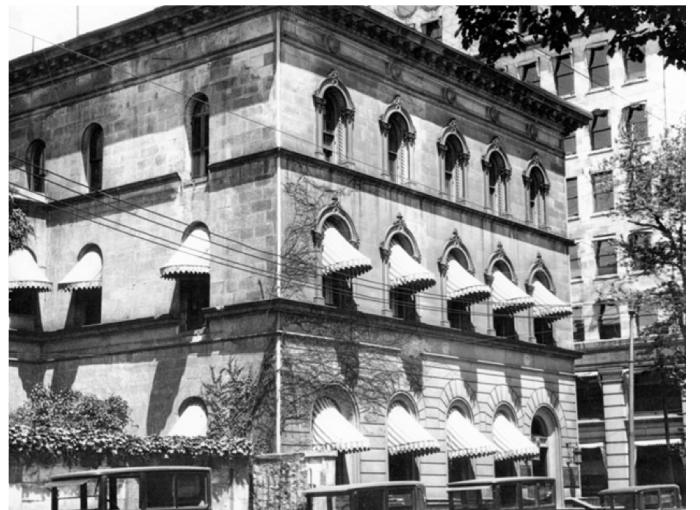
When the building was used as a Reference Library.

Bank of Montreal ...continued

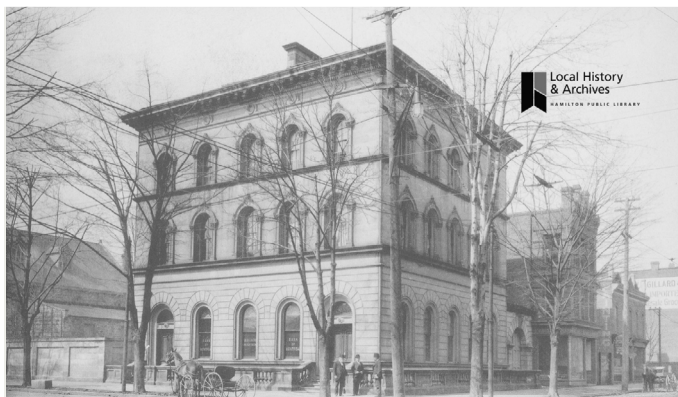
The Merchants Bank came to Hamilton in 1868-69 and called the south west corner of Main and James home. The building shown was demolished by the Bank of Montreal so the new main branch could be constructed in 1928.



View of the northeast corner as seen from the intersection of Main St. and James St.



Exterior view of the Bank of Montreal building, formerly the Merchants Bank building at the corner of James and Main streets. The building was demolished in 1928 to make way for a larger building.



Pictured is the former Merchants Bank of Canada. This location became the Bank of Montreal between 1879-1880. The Bank of Montreal absorbed the Merchant Bank of Canada in 1922.