

# Memory Lane

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## HSBC Building

Gore Bank (later the Canadian Bank of Commerce) once occupied the site where HSBC currently stands. Originally, this was the head office of the Gore Bank (erected in 1848) whose finances were once considered the backbone of Hamilton industries; however, in 1870 an act of parliament confirmed its amalgamation with the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

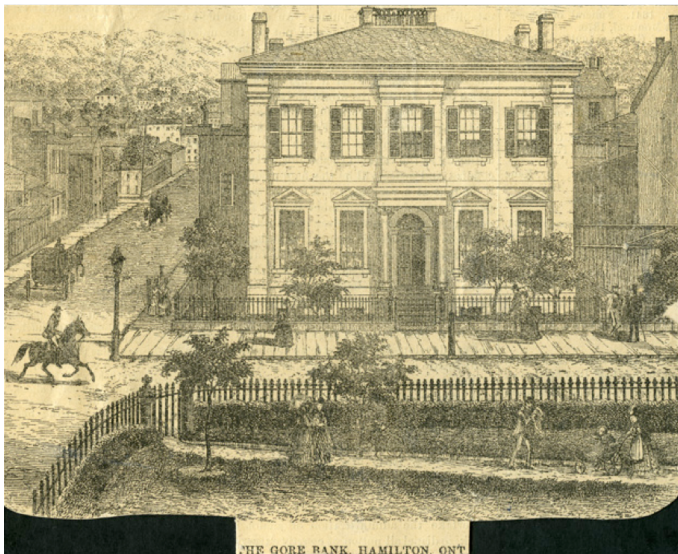


Illustration of Gore Bank, erected around 1848 and located on the southwest corner of King Street East and Hughson Street South.

The building was erected around 1848 and it was located on the southwest corner of King Street East and Hughson Street South. It was originally two storeys high, but in the intervening years a third storey, with a sloping roof, was added. Circling the top of this addition was a lower iron grating not unlike the lawn fence. Later, a small wing was added to the west side of the original building and slight alterations were made to the front entrance. In 1929, the Canadian Bank of Commerce merged with the Bank of Hamilton that was located at King and James Streets. This building was demolished in June 1929. The two-storey Norwich Union Building was the next to occupy this corner until its demolition in 1977.



The two-storey Norwich Union Building was the next to occupy this corner, built in 1929. It remained until its demolition in 1977..



Gore Bank in the 1890s with a view down Hughson St.

continued...

# HSBC Building ...continued



Back In the 1960s, there were several locations of the White Grill in Hamilton's downtown. The location pictured above within the Norwich building was a popular spot.



A view of the inside of White Grill. Every location of the White Grill had a reputation for great milkshakes, burgers, fries and old-fashioned pies.

The current building at 4 Hughson Street South was designed by architects Allward and Gouinlock (Don Mills) and was constructed by Pigott Structures Company Limited (Hamilton) in 1979 for the Norwich Union Life. The building was constructed on the former site of the Gore Bank (later the Bank of Commerce) which was located there from the 1840s to 1929. 4 Hughson Street South was originally occupied by the Continental Bank of Canada in the first floor and offices in the upper storeys. In 2012, the building was known as the HSBC Building and it was occupied HSBC and triOS College in the ground floor.