

# Memory Lane

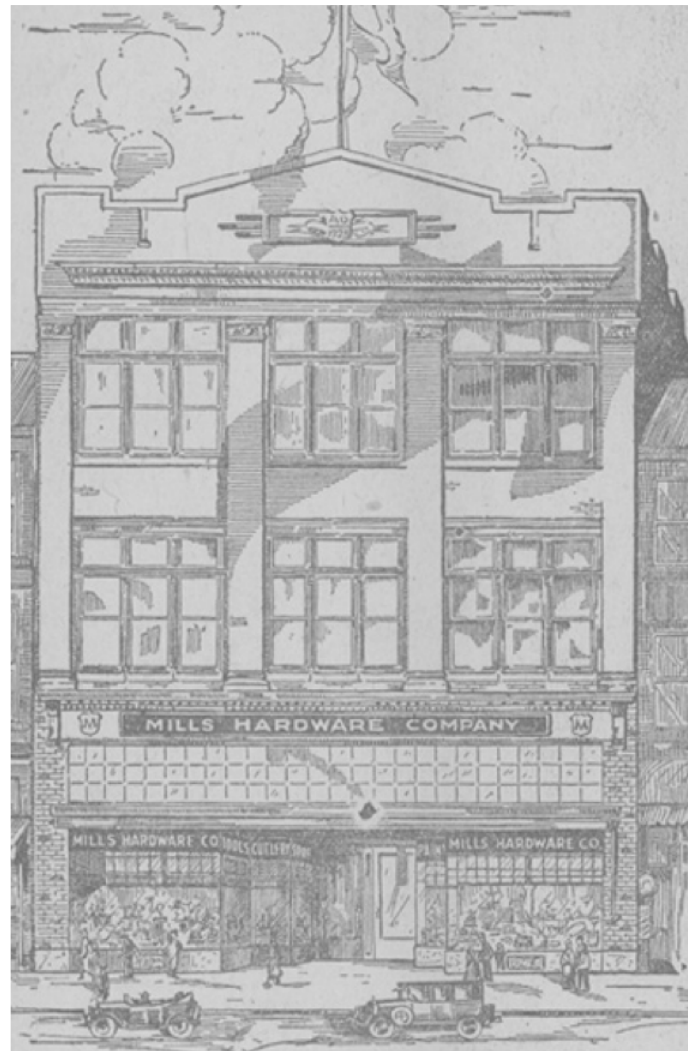
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## Mills Hardware

95 King Street East was originally constructed in the mid-19th century as a two-unit brick commercial building, formerly 95 to 99 King Street East, which was part of a three-storey row spanning from 85 to 115 King Street East. The building was occupied by stationer John Gay in the early 19th century before it was sold to architect Charles Mills in 1911. Charles Mills - a member of the influential Mills family that included Edwin, Stanley and Robert – designed prominent Hamilton buildings such as the Landed Banking and Loan Building, the Stanley Mills Department Store and the Terminal Building (now demolished).

Charles Mills purchased Boulter and Gilmore's hardware business in 1906 for his son Nelson, which moved its head office into 95 King Street East in 1912. Mills Hardware operated out of 95 King Street East for nearly 50 years before it was liquidated and closed in 1961.



A newspaper advertisement for Mills Hardware Store. The caption read: "Your Opportunity / The above store, our new store, is now a modern convenience to be classed with electric power, telephone and the radio. While immensely broadening your buying opportunities, it gives to shopping the comfort of quick service, and offers money-saving unequated by any other method of merchandising. The benefits flowing from this ad, will be in exact proportion to the frequency of its use. Make it a rule to consult this ad. every Friday, and as your needs arise you are sure to experience the pleasure in selecting and the economy in buying that have made us the leading retail hardware store of Hamilton."



An advertisement for Mills Hardware Store on King Street. Local architect and merchant Charles Mills founded Mills Hardware, a hardware store for farmers, in 1906. The store was originally on John street, moved to Barton street, then relocated to 95 King Street East in 1911.

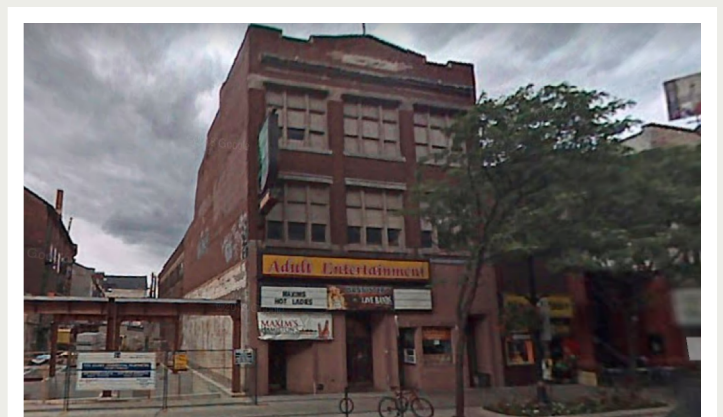
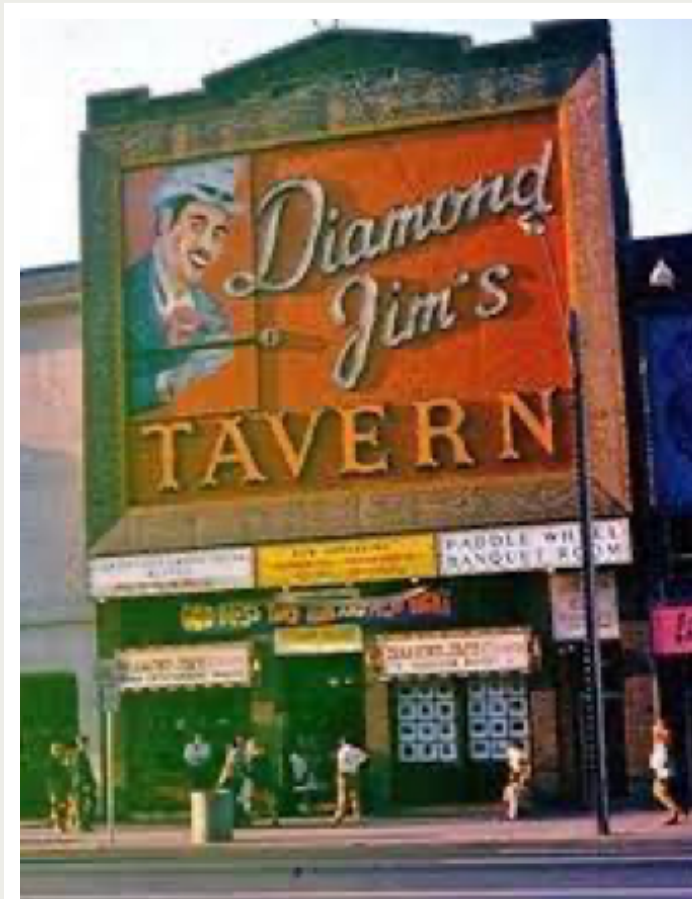
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# Mills Hardware ...continued

95 King Street East has been occupied by a series of restaurants and entertainment establishments since 1967 including Diamond Jim's Tavern (1967-1977), Bannister's Tavern (1980s), and Foxes Den (1990s).

Diamond Jim's Tavern opened in 1968. It mimicked an 1890's San Francisco-era tavern in Hamilton, waitresses wore feather plumes and dangled from ceiling swings. Visitors dined, danced and played the authentic Monte Carlo roulette tables and Conklin carnival slots.

After sitting vacant 95 King Street East was once again named Mills Hardware, now an event and entertainment space bringing together its former namesake and its history as a live music venue.



The building in 2007 before its revival as Mills Hardware.