

Memory Lane

EXPLORE THE PAST OF DOWNTOWN HAMILTON

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Pigott Building

Built in 1928-1929 for \$1,000,000, the Pigott building was the first sky-scraper in Hamilton and one of the first in Ontario. Hamilton architects Bernard and Fred Prack used Art Deco/Gothic Revival style to make this building unique. It was called the most beautiful building of Hamilton and the most interesting in the province. Pigott Construction Co. brought glass from Belgium and steel window frames from England. The exterior was decorated with tyndall limestone sheating which covered the steel skeleton. The interior was decorated with marble and fine tiles. The lobby was painted by church decorators and stained glass windows were installed.



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Pigott Building

Three months before the completion of the building, two thirds of the commercial offices available in the building were rented. The Bank of Montreal took the entire ground floor of the building.

The building remained a thriving commercial building until the 1970's when the economy and popularity of downtown began to falter. The skyscraper was sold and resold several times as several projects fell through. Thankfully the Pigott building was designated as a property of historic and architectural value or interest, and was officially designated historically significant in 1984. Unfortunately by this point time the stained glass windows, the brass doors, and much of the original woodwork had disappeared. The windows were found at a local antique shop, purchased for \$12,000 and re-installed.

The Pigott and Sun Life buildings were combined to make Heritage Gardens, a condominium and retail project. The building has 109 apartments, including a two-floor penthouse equipped with a fire place and personal elevator stop.

The first major property erected on the site of the Pigott Building was the (first) Canada Life Assurance Building erected in 1852. When Canada Life moved across James Street in 1927, the Commerce Centre was demolished to make way for the Pigott Building, which opened in 1929.



The Commercial Building, built in 1856 by the Canada Life Assurance Company, existed on this site prior to the construction of the Pigott Building. The lot was purchased by Mr. Michael Pigott in 1889 who was the founder of Pigott Construction Co.



Street level view of the Pigott Building before The Royal Bank building next door was demolished.