

# Memory Lane

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## London Tap House Building

31 John Street South was designed by architect William Thomas for businessman John White and was constructed in 1850. William Thomas (1799-1860) was a prominent architect who designed numerous buildings in Hamilton including the extension of Christ Church (1852-1854), St. Paul's Church (previously St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1854-1857), the MacNab Street Presbyterian Church (1857), Ballinahinch (1849-50), Inglewood (1853), and White's Block on King Street East, also for businessman John White. John Street was once a commercial hub for Hamilton and saw many businesses located on the street in the 1800s. 31 John Street South was constructed in a prestigious location kitty-corner to the Court House and Court House Square to the southwest.

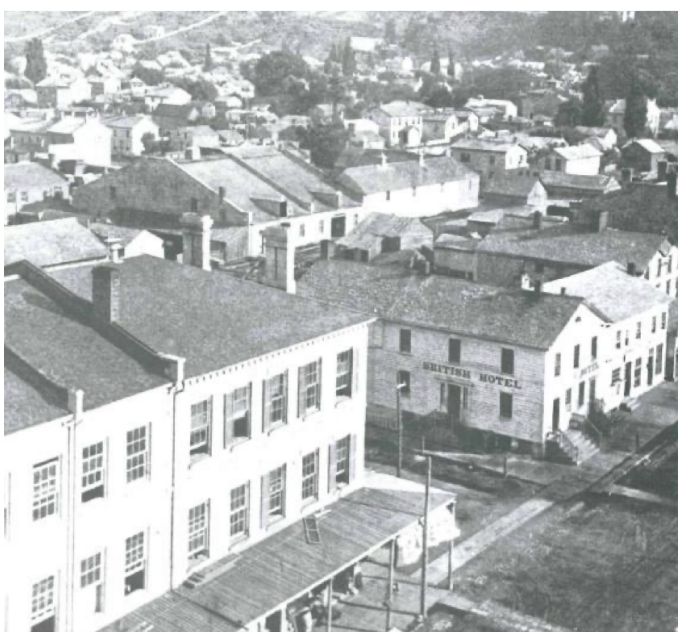


A photo of the building when it was John A. Reche Drugs looks similar to the façade of the building today.

31 John Street South, which consists of 31 to 35 John Street South, has housed a variety of businesses including grocers Secord & Davis (1860s-1880s), druggists Blaicher & Reche (1890s-1920s), and a series of restaurants since the mid-20th century. The building also housed the Town of Hamilton's Masonic Temple in the mid-19th century.



Another view of the building as of 1973.



A view of the building from above at Main and John streets from 1864. This would have been taken from the roof of what is now John Sopinka Courthouse, formerly the city's Post Office.

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# London Tap House Building ...continued



In the 1990s restaurant Sundried Tomatoes could be found at this corner.



In 2007, the building was renovated and opened as the London Tap House in 2008, a five-level restaurant and club with a rooftop patio and basement lounge for events and private parties. London Tap House closed in 2013.