

Memory Lane

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The Old Spectator Building (Royal Bank of Canada)

The Old Spectator Building was located at 28 James Street South next to the Pigott Building, it later became known as the St. James Building, and was described as one of the city's finest office buildings. The building was constructed in 1898 and demolished in 1954 to make way for the site of the New Royal Bank location in 1956.

been one of the finest office buildings in either Toronto or Hamilton at the time. The front of the building was constructed with rubbed Connecticut brown stone and manganese pressed brick, and was topped with a copper cornice. The main entrances on James Street were ornamental, while the halls were faced with enamelled brick, and the floors were finished in a marble mosaic construction. The staircase had carved newels and turned balustrades, while the offices were furnished in native woods. The then modern building was equipped with electricity. The upper floors were rented out as office space, the second floor housed the editorial staff, and the ground floor contained the Spectator's main offices. A three-storey building, located behind the main building, housed the type setting machines and the printing presses.

The new main branch for the Royal Bank of Canada opened for business in January 1956. It was demolished in 2001 and is now a parking lot.

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This ornate six storey building located on James St between King and Main Streets housed The Hamilton Spectator newspaper at one time.

In June of 1898, the Spectator moved into the six storey building on James Street North where it remained until 1921. The building, designed by W. P. Wilton, was the first modern office building on the block. This six-story building was said to have

The Old Spectator Building ...continued



Exterior view of the Royal Bank of Canada in 1960, built on the site of the old Spectator building on James Street South, opened in January 1956. The front elevation was constructed in Queenston limestone and trimmed with native black granite.



The Royal Bank building under construction in the 1950s.