CITY BLOCK
c1860

12 - 24 King St. West
4 => 3 Storefronts

DIRECTORY LISTINGS::

1884/1885: McMullen & Co., booksellers (22*); Bann & Mervin (18*); B.D. Steacy Hardware Store (16*); M. White, clothing, merchant tailor (12*);
1886: McMullen & Co., booksellers (22*); Bann & Mervin (18*); B.D. Steacy Hardware Store (16*); Brockville Chemical Co. (12*);
1890: McMullen & Co., booksellers (22*); I. Coolidge, hats & furs (18*); B.D. Steacy Hardware Store (16*); Brockville Chemical Co. (12*);
1895: McMullen & Co., booksellers (22*); O'Donahoe Bros., dry goods (18*); B.D. Steacy Hardware Store (16*); Adam Fullerton Drug Store (12*);
1900: McMullen & Co., booksellers (22*); George W. Baker, dry goods (18*); D.B. Steacy Hardware Store (16*); Adam Fullerton Drug Store (12*);
1903: B.D. Steacy, hardware (22*); H.T. Murray Co., grocers (18*); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (16*); Adam Fullerton Drug Store (12*);
1910/1919: B.D. Steacy, hardware (22); H.T. Murray Co., grocers (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (16); Miss M. Clement, millinery (12);
1921/1924: Brockville Hardware (22-24); John Belfoi, grocery (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (16); Miss M. Clement, millinery (12);
1926: Brockville Hardware (22-24); John Belfoi, grocery (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (16); The Fashion Shop (12);
1929: Dominion Stores (22-24); John Belfoi, grocery (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (16); The Fashion Shop (12);
1931: Dominion Stores (22-24); vacant (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (16); The Fashion Shop (12); Princess Hair Dressing (20u);
1935: Dominion Stores (22-24); Lipson Store, Dry Goods (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (16); The Fashion Shop (12);
1937: Dominion Stores (22-24); Lipson's Dry Goods (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (14); vacant (12);
1941/1952: Dominion Stores (22-24); Lipson's Dry Goods (18); J.J. Henderson & Sons, butchers (14); Owen R. Davis, insurance (12);
1953/1956: Dominion Stores (22); Lipson's Stores (18); Simpsons-Sears store (16); Owen R. Davis, insurance (12);
1960: Dominion Stores (22); Lipson's Stores (18); Simpsons-Sears store (16); Modern Fruit Store (12);
1963: Dominion Stores (22); Lipson's Stores (18); Simpsons-Sears store (16); vacant (12);
1965: vacant (22); Lipson's Stores (18); Maison du Maxim (16); One Hour Cleaners (12);
1970/1972: Lipson's Stores (18); La Coiffure (16); One Hour Cleaners (12);
1977/1980: Lipson's Stores (18); Her Place (16); One Hour Cleaners (12);
1990/1995: Lipson's Stores (18); Howison Amusements (16), One Hour Cleaners (12)
1996/1997: vacant (18); The Zone (16), One Hour Cleaners (12)

2000: [no listing] (18); The River View (16); One Hour Cleaners (12)
2006: Pensa Technology Solutions / Cruise Holdiays of Brockville (18); Kevin K's (16); One Hour Cleaners (12);
2009: vacant (18); vacant (16); vacant (12);
2012: vacant (18); Shanghai Nails & Spa (16), vacant (12);
2013/2014: vacant (18); Shanghai Nails & Spa (16); Bodega Wines (12);
2015/2018: Family Physiotheropy Centre (18); Shanghai Nails & Spa (16); Bodega Wines (12);
2022: Family Physiotherapy Centre (18); Tik Tok Nails & Spa (16); Bodega Wines (12);

This building appears in a photo dated 1866. The middle two sections are identical and are the core of the City Block. They were probably built around the same time. The two end additions are slightly different, but very similar. They were probably built not long after. The left/western side, #22 was demolished c1967 and replaced by a new, one story structure (below). A photo from the mid 1970s shows the right/eastern block in its original brick state and in good condition, so the stucco covering the brick was done after this. There was no reason for it.

SCOTT ACT: The Scott Act or Canada Temperance Act, was passed in 1878. It let municipalities vote to bring in alcohol prohibition through a vote. Brockville voted for the prohibition. This act was repealed in 1884.

Mathew White had a clothing store here in 1884 and earlier. He lived on Bartholomew St. He is showing as being a clerk back in 1871, probably in another establishment. White moved his business from here to the building preceding the "Hooper-Recorder" Building about 1886.

For some reason, **O'Donahoe Bros.**, dry goods, moved here from the Craig Block around 1893, then moved back after a couple of years.

B.D. Steacy hardware, opened in 1881 and was owned by Benjamin D. Steacy. He lived first at the former 119 (old number) Pearl St., which is no longer there, later at 87 King St. E. It was a large store covering three floors plus an attached warehouse out back. The business dealt in "heavy and shelf hardware, cutlery, sporting goods, aluminum and enamelware, steam fittings, wire fencing, all leading brands of cements, sewer tile, fire brick and roofing felts, paints, oils, glass and painters supplies, etc". In 1920, the establishment became **Brockville Hardware**, managed by William J. McIntyre. McIntyre resided at 44 James St. E. The hardware store closed around 1927 after 46 years.

McMullen & Co. was a 'bookseller', in what we would call a book store today. Opening by 1884 or earlier, it was owned by John McMullen. They advertised themselves as 'Booksellers, Stationers and Printers'. In the early years, McMullen published 'The Brockville Monitor', a third city newspaper, on the second floor. J.A. Stephens shows a bookbinding business in 1900 by McMullen's and may have taken over that part of his business. McMullen's closed sometime in the first decade of the 1900s.

Bann & Mervin sold wines and liquors, both wholesale and retail. They are shown in business in 1884 and probably started that year, as the Scott Act had just been repealed. They seem to have started out in the Revere House hotel across the street. The 1884 directory shows them in both places, so they may have moved across during that year. This establishment was owned by John C. Bann and Joseph P. Mervin. Mervin lived upstairs in this building, while Bann lived across the street in the Revere House hotel. It closed about 1888.

H.T. Murray Co. were 'grocers and coal and wood'. The store first opened by Henry T. Murray in the Field Building about 1888, not lasting long there. It then moved to the "Sheridan-Power" Building about 1892. The store made its final move to this building in the first decade of the 1900s. Murray lived at 53 King St. E. The grocery was acquired by **John Belfoi** in 1920 and described as a 'grocer and provisioner'. He lived at 40 Broad St. The grocery closed about 1930, shortly after the onset of the Great Depression.

James J. Henderson ran a butcher shop in the city at various locations through the years. He lived on the Prescott Rd. Henderson started out around 1886 as one of the several butchers working out of the Market Place building where city hall is now. **J.J. Henderson & Sons** opened in the Field Building about 1892. In the first decade, he moved to this building. By 1910, the business was run by his sons, William R. Henderson and Albert B. Henderson, but stayed in their father's name. Albert lived in this building, while William lived on the Prescott Rd. By 1930, William was gone, and the business solely run by Albert. This long time establishment closed about 1953, with Albert still at the helm, after a history of about 67 years.

Miss M. Clement ran her millinery shop out of this building from the first decade of the 1900s until about 1925. She lived upstairs in the building.

Highway Tea Room (#20) was on an upper level around 1924.

Adam Fullerton first opened his drug store in this block in the mid 1890s, before moving to his long time permanent address on the corner of King and Victoria St., shortly after the turn of the century.

Claire A. McCarten opened her **Princess Hair Dressing** business on the second floor, #20, around 1930. She only lasted a couple of years here before moving to Kincaid Block, on their upper floor.

Lipson's, a small regional department store chain, opened a store in Brockville around 1933, at a time when the Great Depression was at it's worst, bottoming out the year before. Orval C. Keller had a long tenure as manager, postwar between c19xx to c1970. He lived with his wife Helen in an apartment at 38 King St. W., later moving to 131 King St. E. (46 56 66 69). Later managers were Wayne Johns (c1970 to c1972); Glen D. Woodcock (c1972 to c1979), Bonita Poulin (c1979 to c1981) Jack Hayes (c1981 to c1991) and in the end, Evelyn Wilson and Marjorie Smith (c1991 to c1996). The store closed about 1996 after around 63 years, all in the same location.

This is the second location of **The Fashion Shop** from c1925 to c1936, then moving to Parr-Manuel Block. (see that block for more)

This was the third location of the city's **Dominion** grocery store. They previously had two stores, one at each end of town (232 King W and 11 King E.). The east end store had to move as the building was slated to be demolished to make way for the new Manitonna Hotel. The company decided to consolidate into one larger store here, and the west end store was also closed. The store remained here until around 1965 when they moved to the middle of town in a brand-new building.

Simpsons-Sears opened here the same year, 1953, the company/brand started in Canada. This location was a Mail Order Office. It was managed by Mrs. Margaret Robinson, who lived at 157 Church St. Ross K. Rigney took over about 1965. He resided with his wife Lois M. at 18 Sunset Blvd. Around 1964, they moved across the street to their second location in the Hutchison Block, 35 King St. W.

One Hour Cleaners was opened around 1965 by Kenneth Durant. He lived with his wife Irene at 90 Perth St. Dale M. Durant took over c1977 and ran it until the end. It closed about 2008 after a lengthy 43 years.

The 90s brought a couple of amusement businesses, first with **Howison Amusements** owned by Dave Howison. **The Zone** followed, owned by Steven Pyke, had coined operated amusement machines.

Maison du Maxim, a hair dressing establishment, was opened by Gordon Hutton about 1965.

La Coiffure Beauty Shop first opened in the Brockville Shopping Centre around 1965, by Peter Galvin. It is memorable for its unique storefront with white painted brick, door on the left, protruding window on the right. Galvin opened a second location downtown in this building about 1970, and copied the unique storefront, which is still there today. Peter was joined by Roger Galvin as co-owner about 1972. Randy Cavanaugh acquired the business from the Galvin's around 1975. The downtown location could not have been profitable, as it closed with this transfer of ownership. The third owner was Vivian Perry, who took it over about 1981. Next, the business was acquired around 1989 by Shirley Haystead & Karen Nolan, co-owners. That didn't last long, as the business was in the hands of Ms Lee Perrin around 1994. It finally closed about 2004, after almost 40 years.

Her Place existed from c1976 to c1981 and owned by Barbara Gregoire. Other than female oriented, unknown what type of business.

Shanghai Nails & Spa opened Dec. 10, 2010, stating "Professional nail care at your fingertips" It became **Tik Tok Nails & Spa** on Mar. 29, 2022, under the new management of Van Hoai Nguyen. It has 6 employees.

Bodega Wines was opened by Eric Van Rijswijk Jan 1, 2012. "Ferment on premise, make your wine here."

STOREFRONTS

PENSA Technology Solutions Inc.
(613) 342-5111
Relax... you're with us
NOW HIRING

SHANGHAI
Nails & Spa
16
14

family
PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE
613-342-6400
18
King St. West
OPEN

TIK-TOK Nails & Spa
BEAUTY
613-498-2068
16
14
OPEN
Beauty
Nails & Spa

Top photo is Miss M. Clement's millinery store c1915.

ADVERTISING

John Belfoi, grocer, 1924;

THE REPLACEMENT FOR #22

DIRECTORY LISTINGS::

1970/1980: The Permanent, Canada Permanent Trust & Morgage (20)
1990: Municipal Savings & Lones Corporation (20)
2000: National Bank of Canada (20)
2006: vacant (20)
2009/2012: Dream Weaver, Gifts & Gift Baskets (20)
2014/2015: Hain & Coleman, Barrister & Solicitor (20)
2018: Ainslie C. Coleman Barrister & Solicitor (20)
2021: Anderson Kate, lawyers (20)

This was built c1967. When the old building was here it was #22. With the new one, the address was changed to #20. It originally had a white brick top, before being stuccoed over in later years. With the exception of **Dream Weaver**, there c2008 to c2013, the building was mainly occupied by banks and lawyers.

This was **Dream Weaver**'s fourth and final permanent Brockville location before moving the business to Ottawa. The store featured "gifts, gourmet food & baskets" It became known as the groovy girl store as they had the "entire groovy girl collection and all the bulk jelly belly jelly bean flavours". The business had been founded by Lee Anne Frederickson in 1993 and located in Craig's Block, Lafayette Block and Donaldson Block before moving here around 2008. They stated Shop Canadian, Shop Local, Shop Downtown and had a motto "Live, Laugh, Love". In 2012, Frederickson opened **Dream Weaver** on Richmond Road in Ottawa and closed the Brockville location in January 2013 and the building was sold. They have come back a couple of times, just for the Christmas season, since leaving.

Out of Town
BACKGROUND

LIPSON'S DEPARTMENT STORE

Picton, Ont.

160.4 km from Brockville

Lipson's Department Store, had its founding in, of all places, Picton Ont., a small town with a population (now) of 4,702. Serving not only Picton, it was the go to store for all of Prince Edward County. It was 1923 when Alex and Dinah Lipson opened that first store at 289 Main St., where LIly's Cafe is today. Alex had started out as a door-to-door pedlar, and it grew from there. The store sold men's and women's clothing, linens, and footwear. They then opened a furniture department on the second floor. To keep prices low, the stores' interior did not offer much in the way of style. But, of course, the women's department offered a more modern look than the rest of the store.

With the expansion into a chain, stores were opened in Belleville, Trenton and Napanee. These three areas were close by Piction. It is interesting that a fifth location was opened in Brockville, Ont., much further away. Especially interesting as they skipped over both Kingston and Gananoque, where none were opened.

The chain began contracting down to it's single original store in the early 1990s with Belleville closing in 1992, Brockville around 1996, Trenton and Napanee in the same time frame. The 'mother' store finally closed in 2004. The big national and multinational chains in the malls, then big box stores, were the main reason Lipson's and other smaller regional chains in downtown areas disappeared. As a goodbye gift, Lipson's gave away souvenir pens on their last day with the inscription "Lipson's Stores 80th Anniversary 1923-2004. Thank You and Farewell" were distributed to customers on the last day of shopping."

(Information gathered from the various directories, Kimball's, Foster's, Vernon's and others, Dream Weaver website, County Weekly News paper.)

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