



# COSSITT BLOCK

## c1850 ?

31 King St West



### DIRECTORY LISTINGS::

**1886/1890::** J.L. Upham, fruit and confectionery store  
**1895::** H.H. Cossitt, bakery  
----- 1897 RENOVATION -----  
**1900::** H.H. Cossitt, bakery  
**1911/1913::** C.H. Buell & Son baker's & confectioners  
**1919/2015::** Tait's Bakery  
**2015::** Tait's Fresh Start

The top three photos are early cut-outs. The left one is before 1897. It has a smaller cornice with no date protruding upward in the middle. Although hard to see, it would have been just stone without the brick around the windows. The middle/right pics are early post 1897 photos.

The date stone leads us to believe that this building was built in 1897. However, other buildings were simply renovated with a new front, with even new dates reflecting the major renovation, not date built. This is the case with this building also. Baker H.H. Cossitt was doing business here both before and after 1897.

The date plate on the building states:  
H. H. Cossitt & Bro., Confectioners, c. 1895 - c. 1903;  
C. H. Buell & Son, Bakers and Confectioners, c. 1903 - 1918;  
John Tait, Baker and Confectioner, 1919 - 1930;

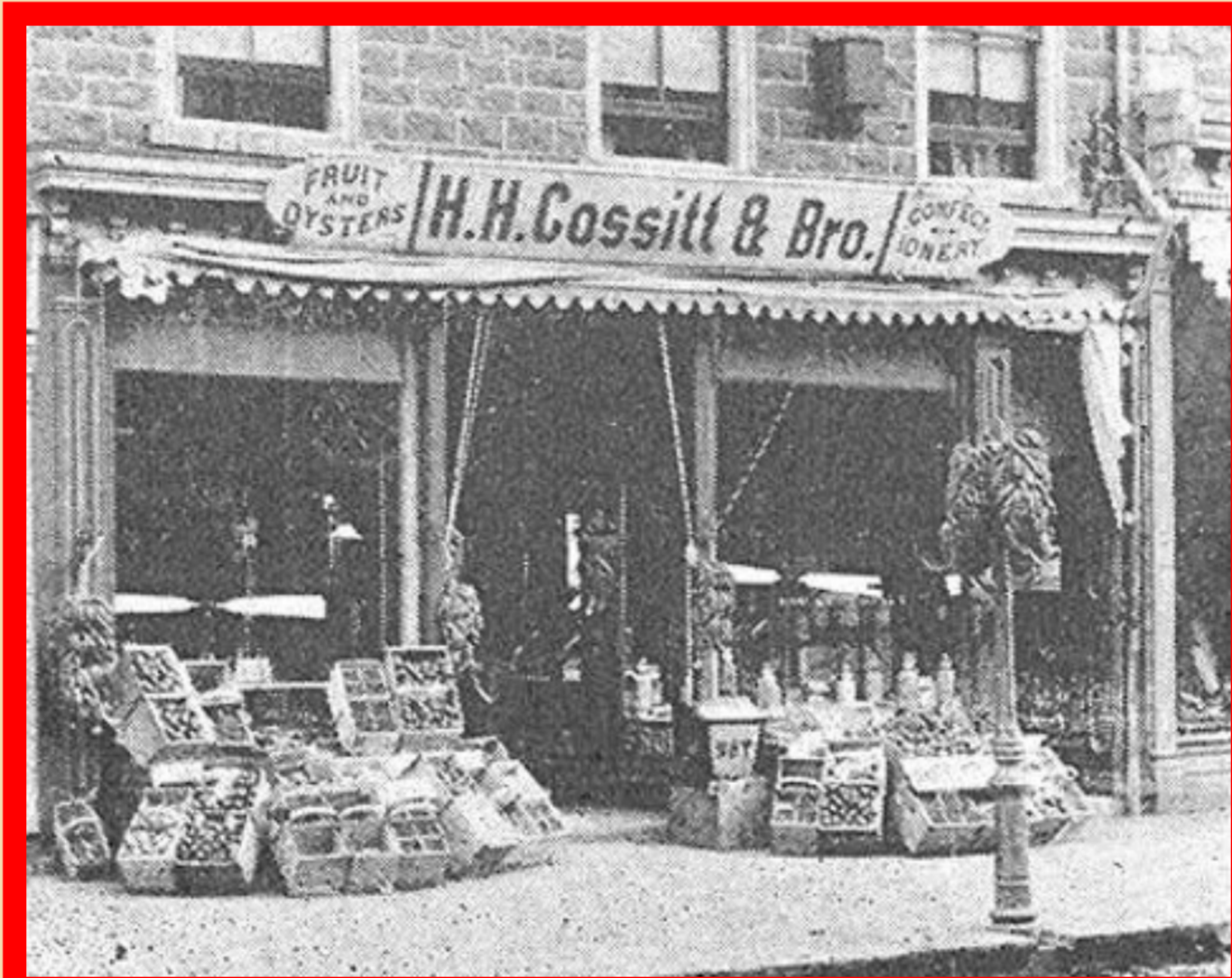
Tait's Bakery states that it has been in business since 1908. The 1911 and 1913 Vernon's directories show C.H. Buell & Son baker's & confectioners.

## OUTSIDE INFORMATION

It's an old Brockville landmark with a new life. Tait's Bakery, now officially known as Tait's Fresh Start Bakery, has been baking bread and satisfying the sweet tooth of Leeds and Grenville Counties almost continuously since 1908. The local institution started when John Tait arrived from England and set up shop at 31 King Street East, where the bakery has remained ever since. Before moving to Canada, Tait worked as a baker for Queen Victoria. The ownership changed a couple of times in the first 50 years of the business until Bruce Mazurek took over in 1957. Bruce's two sons, Steve and John ran the bakery until 2012 when they sold the business to Perry and Stacy Wenham. By the summer of 2015, Tait's was in financial trouble and suddenly one day in August, employees showed up for work to find the doors locked and the old bakery suddenly out of business. Customers and employees alike were in shock. Then Jay Leroux, a Tait's employee since 1989, stepped in. He and Melanie Day, his partner in both business and life, decided to reopen the business as Tait's Fresh Start. Even though it's been many decades since John Tait owned the bakery, his name has stayed as a symbol of tradition and quality. "Even if the name changed, people would still call it Tait's anyway" said Leroux. Steve and John Mazurek still own the old stone building and continue to lend their expertise to the business. (more below)

[North Country Public Radio](#)

## STOREFRONTS



## ADVERTISING



C. H. Buell & Son, Bakers and Confectioners, 1913.