



"CULBERT" BLOCK

125, 127 King St. West 119 King St. (1880's)



DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- 1884/1919: John Culbert, dry goods & grocery (127);
- 1923/1929: H.S. Hunt, grocery (127);
- 1931: Great A & P Tea Co. (127);
- 1935: vacant (127);
- 1937/1952: New Percival, furniture (127);
- 1954: New Percival Furniture (127), New Percival Apparel Shop (125);
- 1956/1965: Adams Furniture (127)

The main floor is 127 King St. W., the door going upstairs is at 125.

This building appears as a block on the map of 1853, so appears to be pre-1850, possibly built in the 1840's. It originally had a peaked roof, as per the top pic above, slanting downward towards King St. This roofline is seen in the bottom left photo. Like many other older buildings on King, in the late Victorian era (late 1800's), it was 'modernized' to become block style. The peaked roof, with a small attic was replaced by a brick full/flat roof attic.

There are no Culbert's listed in 1867. There is a Culbert Brothers, grocery listed in the 1871 directory on Main St. If not John of later years, it could have been his father and father's brother, but unknown at this point. It may or may not have been at this location. J. Culbert had a store at 256 King St. (1880's address) in 1883 called Rock Bottom Store. It was a clothing store and seemed to be a different building by the address (according to an 1883 ad). John Culbert had his grocery here 1884 to c1920.

Culbert (1847 – 1915) at the time lived at 16 William St. Along with being a merchant (groceries and provisions, corner of King and Home), he was Brockville mayor (1893 -1896), Conservative member of the House of Commons of Canada (1900 to 1904). (Wikipedia)

The New Percival furniture store was a small regional chain based in Kingston. It was started by Joseph Abramsky. Abramsky started a clothier business at 259 Princess St. in 1903. Around 1930, he began selling furniture on the second floor under the Percival Furniture Company name, an offshoot business. Brockville's store opened in the Central Block, also around 1930. The chain also added stores in Belleville, Smith's Falls and Peterborough. They sold furniture, stoves, radios, electric refrigerators and appliances, according to their early ads. The large store occupied both this location and in the Bigg Block to the east. By around 1953, the apparel business was separated from the furniture business and became New Percival Apparel Shop, originally upstairs (125), then moving to the Bigg Block next door. This part of Percival would survive next door until around 1967. Adams Furniture took over the furniture side around 1955. The original Abramsky business in Kingston folded in 1977.

The Adams Furniture Co. started in Erie, Pennsylvania, and expanded into Toronto, Ont. in 1881, with manager Charles C. Coryell. Coryell bought the Toronto business in 1896 and kept the Adams name. The chain expanded outside of Toronto and came to Brockville around 1955. As with Percival, the large store occupied both this location and in the Bigg Block to the east. Adams Furniture was destroyed in the 1965 fire and never re-opened in Brockville.

THE 1965 FIRE



There are 4 blocks that were lost in the 1965 fire, including the Culbert Block. These included 6 storefronts, but Adams occupied 2 of them. Adams Furniture occupied 127 at the time of the 1965 fire. The fire broke out Nov. 9, 1965 with an explosion in the Adams store at 6:10 am. Luckily, a beat patrol officer nearby heard the explosion and called the fire dept. Four other fire dept's from around the area were called in as high winds spread the fire eastward down the block. 4 of the 5 buildings on the block were completely destroyed with the 5th heavily damaged. There was no loss of life. (Photos from the Brockville Fire Dept.)

[Doug Grant Article #1](#)

ADVERTISING

ADAMS
BROCKVILLE
119-127 KING ST. W.
Phone Diamond 2-6995

ADAMS the GIANT of the Furniture Business Brings You for the First Time in Over 78 Years the...

GIANT

78 YEARS IN BUSINESS AND STILL GROWING!

HERE'S THE STORY BEHIND THIS GIANT OF SALES

CONFIDENCE!

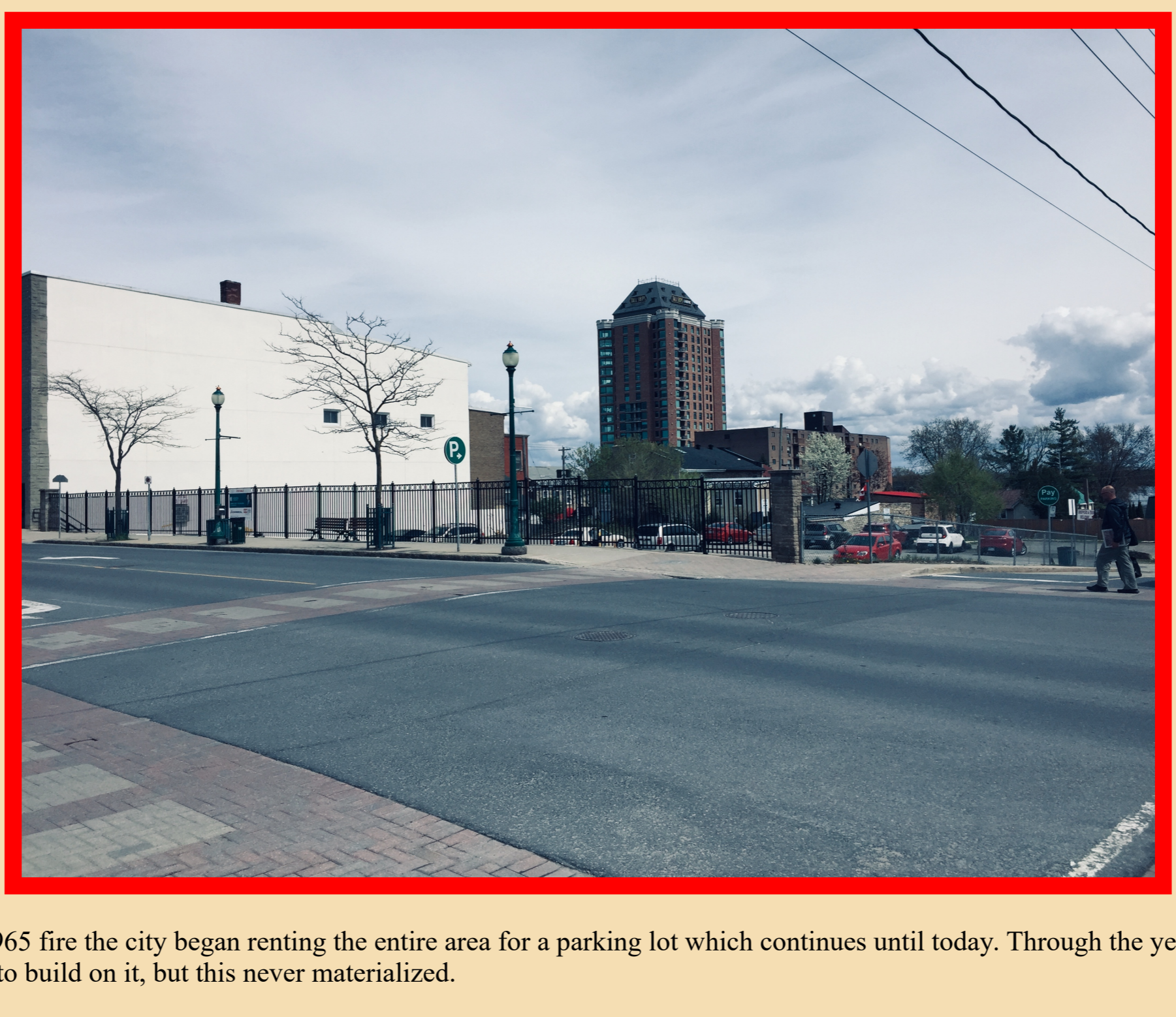
Here are just a few of the Hundreds of Giant Values! Every Item in the Store Sale-Priced at Giant Savings!

DOUBLE DRESSER, CHEST AND A BODICASE BED REG. 199.00 119.00	3-PC. CHESTFIELD OF DAVENPORT SUITE REG. 199.00 99.88	4-PC. CHURCH BENTLEY SUITE REG. 199.00 96.00
EFFICIENT, ELECTRIC FRY PAN REG. 24.95... 14.88	COFFEE PERCOLATOR REG. 19.95... 10.88	RELIABLE ELECTRIC IRON REG. 9.95... 6.88
AXMINSTER TWEED RUGS 8' x 12' REG. 108.88 49.95	MAGAZINE RACK REG. 1.95... 99c	HOSTESS CHAIR REG. 13.95... 9.88
COMFORTABLE HIGH CHAIR REG. 19.95... 13.88	ELECTRIC RANGE REG. 159.95... 129.00	FLEETWOOD T.V. CONSOLE REG. 229.95... 259.95

NO DOWN PAYMENT

Adams Furniture, 1959;

REPLACEMENT



After the 1965 fire the city began renting the entire area for a parking lot which continues until today. Through the years there were plans to build on it, but this never materialized.

JOHN CULBERT HOUSE

c1880 16 William St. 5 William St.. (1880's)



DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- 1884/1913: John Culbert;
- 1918/1926: H.S. Hunt;
- 1929: vacant
- 1931/1935: W.H. Perrin (physician);
- 1943: vacant
- 1946: E.H. McCann./H. Campbell;
- 1948: John Chipperfield / H. Campbell;
- 1960: John Chipperfield / W.P. Fenlon

On the map of 1874, it does not appear that this house is on the map. It could have been built either mid to late 1870's or around 1880. It probably was built for John Culbert.

H.S. Hunt, the next occupant, took over Culbert's grocery business on King St. It is interesting, however, that he moved into Culbert's home before this. (Vernon's 1919 directory shows Hunt living here, but Culbert still in business on King St.)

After sitting vacant, the home was divided into 2 apartments in the mid 1940's.

STREET SCENE



A late 1950's street scene showing the Bigg Block on the corner. The Ferry had been shut down in 1960, the same year of the opening of the Prescott/Ogdensburg bridge.