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## FITZSIMMONS BLOCK **Round Corner Building** 1842

73 - 83 King St. W.



## 1911: A.G. Dobbie Hardware (73-75), Braund's Fair fancy goods (81), W. Lorimer Grocery (83); 1913: A.G. Dobbie Hardware (73-75), Braund's Fair fancy goods (81), Albert E. Shaver, grocery (83);

2006.

75 King St. W.

More to come

1915: A.G. Dobbie Hardware (73-75), Albert E. Shaver, grocery (81), S.A. Jackson, merchant tailor (83)

1917/1924: A.G. Dobbie Hardware (73-75), W. Taylor, grocery (81), S.A. Jackson, merchant tailor (83) 1926: A.G. Dobbie Hardware (73-75), The Bazaar, books, stationary, etc (81), S.A. Jackson, merchant tailor (83); 1929: A.G. Dobbie Hardware (73-75), Solloway Mills, brokers (81), S.A. Jackson, merchant tailor (83) 1931: Brockville Indoor Golf Course (73-75), E.E. Vanalstyne, men's furnishings (81), Jackson & Ker, merchant tailors (83)

1895: H.A. Field's Hardware (73\*-75\*), Cole's Bazaar (81\*), Fitzsimmons & Bro., grocery (83\*) 1900: A.G. Dobbie Hardware (73\*-75\*), Cole's National Manufacturing Co. (81\*), vacant (83);

1933: Beamish Store (73-75), Patrick R. Roach, grocery (81), Jackson & Ker, merchant tailor (83) **1935:** Beamish Store (73-75), vacant (81), John W. Ker, merchant tailor (83) 1943/1951: Beamish Store (73-75), Claridge Shoe Shoppe (81), John W. Ker & Sons, merchant tailor (83) 1956: Beamish Store (73-75), Myers Shoes (81), John W. Ker & Sons, merchant tailor (83) **1960/1970:** Agnew-Suprass Shoe Store (73), Myers Shoes (81), Ker's Men's Wear (83)

1980: Pauline's Corset Salon (73-75), Biba [Upper Canada Stores] (75), Myers A1 Shoe (81), Ker's Men's Wear (83) 1990: Personal Expressions Card & Gift Shop (73), Biba (75), vacant (81), Ker's Men's Wear (83) 2000: Off The Wall (73), Biba (75), Lillian Rose Bridal Wear (81), Ker's Men's Wear (83) 2009: Leeds County Books (73), Biba (75), 'The Moorings' sales office (81), Echo clothing co (83)

**2012/2015:** Leeds County Books (73), Biba (75), Cronk's bicycle shop (81), Echo clothing co (83) 2018/2019: Savvy, footwear & accessories (73), Maycourt Thrift Shop (75), Cronk's bicycle shop (81), Echo clothing co (83) **2021:** Savvy, footwear & accessories (73), Maycourt Thrift Shop (75), vacant (81), Echo clothing co (83)

The upper floors are known as Dobbie Apartments. This large stone building, housing three ground floor stores, was built by George Prevost in 1842. Robert Fitzsimmons aquired the western section in 1847, the beginning of the three sections being divided and with different ownership. Through the years, it

has been known as the Prevost Building, Fizsimmons Building or the Round Corner Building.

went solo, opening S.A. Jackson, merchant tailor. During this period, Jackson lived at 62 Park St. Jackson had built up a lucrative tailoring business, of suits and uniforms, that was Canada wide. He supplied the uniforms to both the Brockville police and fire departments. John Ker became a partner in 1925, taking over the business in 1934. John W. Ker originally came from Scotland and ended up working in Ottawa as a cutter and fitter. Jackson, needing this in his

Samuel A. Jackson had left his previous partnership, **Mowat & Jackson**, merchant tailors, at 139 King W. Around 1914, he

business, heard about Ker, who joined the business in 1923, with an option to become partner. This happened two years later, 1925, and it became Jackson & Ker. After 9 years in the partnership, in 1934 Ker bought out Jackson and the establishment became Ker's Men's Wear. Ker continued taking orders from across Canada, making trips across the country up until 1935.

After that, he serviced mainly customers he already had up until his death in 1948. Sons Hugh and Bruce began working for the

transitioning to men's clothing, with suits brought in from manufacturers. Hugh finished the transition after his fathers' death. There were major renovations in 1960 and the store doubled in size in 1962. A second location existed in the 1000 Islands Mall from 1973 to 1983. Later family owners were D. Bruce Ker and John Ker, with John taking it to the end. The store closed Jan. 1,

While Ker's started out under John W. Ker (first as a partnership) in 1925, this establishment's root goes way back to around 1870 when it was founded by Micheal Kehoe on Apple St., before adding James Moore as a partner. There would be several

store. After WWII, the making of tailored clothing on site started to become a thing of the past and the business began

addresses and names, with the name changing where changes in ownership took place. The names are: Micheal Kehoe, Moore & Kehoe, Moore & Mowet, Mowat & Jackson, S.A. Jackson, Jackson & Ker, JW Ker & Son, and finally **Ker's Men's Wear**. This gave it more then 135 years of continuous history in the merchant tailoring / men's wear business. Ker's Men's Wear made history on March 3, 1960 when it set up the first color advertisement in The Recorder and Times. It was a two-page ad celebrating its re-opening after the major 1960 renovations. The May Court Club had opened on March 6, 1959 with 29 members. They opened the May Court Thrift Shop on March 6,

1964 at <u>47 Broad St.</u> The group is the oldest service club in Canada. It was founded by Lady Ishbel Aberdeen, wife of Canada's Governor General. in 1898 on the eve of May Day in Ottawa. The store moved out of the Broad St. location to 40 St. Andrew

Mrs. Carol S. Hatfield and Kathy Thompson were managers in the 1970s. In early 2017, the store moved to its current location,

St. around 1979, in the basement of this building. Because of the hill, it had a door way out to the street. Mrs. R. Dembielle,

Beamish Stores first appeared in Brockville about 1932 in this building. Manager in 1946 was Gerald K. Ellacott. He lived with wife Gladys at 78 Murray St. Later years saw it managed by G. Thorpe Gunning, who resided with his wife Elsie at 123 James St. E. They will move to 65 King St. W. about 1960 and stay in the city until the late 1970's. Leeds County Books were Brockville's main book store in the downtown area in the late 20ths century until after the milenium. The independent store was opened by Murrey McGregor in March 1979, in the Jones-Harding Block at 41 King W. It was its first of five King St. locations. Around 1989, they moved to 181 King St. W., the Smarts Block. The next move came around 1993 to 42 King St. W. in the Woolworth's Block. The store was purchased by Pat and Jake Belanger in 1997. The business stayed here until around 2001 when they moved to 71 King St. W. Around 2008 the book store made its move here to its fifth and final loction. A second location, more seasonal, was opened in Gananoque, and was around for a number of years. On April 26, 2011, the store had another change of ownershop with Courtney Sadler taking over. Sadler brought the store up to modern

Echo Clothing Co. was opened in Sept. 1998 by Lynn Libbos, in this 2400 sq ft store. They advertise "Something for Everyone

Theresa had noticed there were no good stores offering quality fashion footwear. Around 2017, it moved to this location. Along with footwear, she offers accessories, such as silver jewellery, to handbags. She orders few of each king so as not to have many of the same around town. "Women seek out the boutique experience because they want a quality product along with personalized

... Women's Clothing, Accessories, Footwear for Ladies & Men, Giftware". The business is currently still owned by Libbos.

Savvy opened as a footwear store by Theresa Kenney-Chirchill in late 2006 on the other side of the street (92 King St. W.).

times setting up a website and Facebook page. Unfortunatly, it didn't last long as the store closed around 2017.

(Most information from Kimball's, Foster's and Vernon's directories, The Recorder and Times, business websites)

experience, knowledge and experience not available in the large box stores."

Some early history can be found on **Doug Grant's Brockville History Album**.

ARCHITECT'S SKETCH

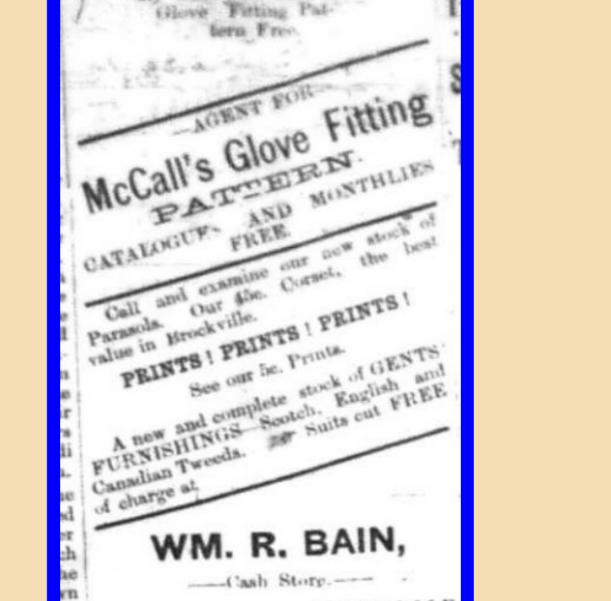
**STOREFRONTS** 



Biba.



IMPORTERS AND GENERAL DEALERS IN Staple & Fancy Dry Goods, GROCERIES, CROCKERY, GLASSWARE, &c., BROCKVILLE, C. W. KING STREET,



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