



FRENCH BLOCK 1857

14, 16 King St. West
36 King St. (1880s)
1 Storefront



DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- 1884: ?? (14); Charles H. French, painter (back);
- 1886: J.D. Smith, fruit & confectioner (14); Charles H. French, painter (back);
- 1890: The Times Printing Office (14*); Public Hall (16u*); Charles H. French, painter (back);
- 1895: A.S. Ault & Co. coal & wood (14*); Charles H. French, painter (back);
- 1900: Ault & Reynolds, coal & wood (14); (14), Salvation Army (16u*); Charles H. French, painter (back);
- 1910: Ault & Reynolds, coal office (14)
- 1913: W.B. Reynolds & Co., coal office (14), A.O.U.W. Hall (16u)
- 1919: W.B. Reynolds & Co., coal office (14), Orange Hall, Poulin & Co. cigar manufacturers (16u)
- 1929/1960: W.B. Reynolds & Co., coal office (14), Orange Hall (16u)
- 1971: W.B. Reynolds & Co., coal office / Brockville fuels (14), Can. Conservatory of Music (16u)
- 1980: Reynolds coal / Brockville fuels / Central Canada Coal (14), vacant (16u)
- 1990: Gourmet Cuisine Catering (16)
- 2000: Brockville Restaurant & Steak House east side (14)
- 2006: Brockville Restaurant & Steak House / Phoenix Restaurant east side (14)
- 2009/2021: Phoenix Restaurant east side (14)
- 2022: Indian Cuisine Hub Restaurant east side (14)

This block has the historic name of French Block. It was named for Charles French, who had an ornamental and house painting business here, in the back, for several decades and probably owned the building. The business was accessed on the other side of the stone building to the east, where he lived.

There was a large hall on the 3rd floor of the building. Used variously through the years as Public Hall, Salvation Army, A.O.U.W. Hall and Orange Hall. A lot of stairs to climb for a hall.

James D. Smith's fruit & confectioner store was in this block, where he lived upstairs at 34 King St. (80s address).

The Evening Times (also had a weekly) had a brief stay in the French Block. They moved here from the Merrill Block around 1888. After a half decade or so, they then moved across the street to the "Knapp" Block.

This location had a long tenure as a coal and fuel office. Starting with A.S. Ault & Co. in 1895, it soon became Ault & Reynolds shortly after, late 1890s. The company re-adjusted as W.B. Reynolds & Co. c1912, and finally simply Reynolds. Also, there was Brockville fuels and Central Canada Coal.

After coal offices, a run of restaurants began. However, for these, the main restaurant was next door and this building housed the east side extension. Four of these occupied the premises: Gourmet Cuisine Catering, Brockville Restaurant & Steak House east side, Phoenix Restaurant and Indian Cuisine Hub Restaurant.

OTHER VIEWS



From the back and top. This is where French's paint shop was located.

STOREFRONTS



The French Block is the tallest building, in the middle on the left. The photo appears to be 1920s.

STREET SCENE



The French Block is the tallest building, in the middle on the left. The photo appears to be 1920s.