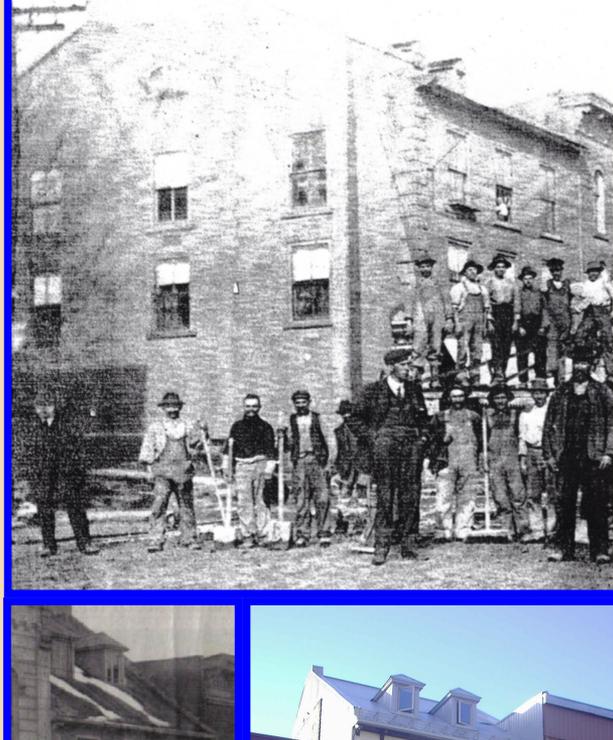




# HOUSTON BUILDING

c1867

## 34, 32 King St. West



### DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- c1867/1871: George Houston liquor store & grocery (34\*)
- 1884/1885: Moore & Carnegie, wines & liquors (34\*)
- 1887: R.H. Gamble, photographer (34\*)
- 1890: Herb Fitzsimmons, billiard room (34\*)
- 1895: Ross & Burns Central Meat Market, butchers (34\*)
- 1900: D.W. Ross, butcher (34\*)
- 1910/1915: R. Craig, furriers & mens furnishings, (32); S. Schrybman, tailor (34)
- 1915: A.P. Louch (32); S. Schrybman, tailor (34);
- 1917: Louch & Mackey, electrical contractors (32)
- 1919/1921: J.R. Bresnan & Son, coal (32)
- 1923/1941: J.R. Bresnan & Son, coal (32); R. Dunn, photos (34u)
- 1943/1946: J.R. Bresnan & Son, coal (32); Gwen-Dola Beauty Salon (34u)
- 1949: Vickers—Gorri, coal (32); Gwen-Dola Beauty Salon (34u)
- 1954/1963: Claire's Hat & Dress Shoppe (32); Gwen-Dola Beauty Salon (34u)
- 1966/1969: Claire's Hat & Dress Shoppe (32);
- 1971: La Juenesse Fashions (32)
- 1973/1986: The Stag Shop (32)
- 1988/1997: Flannels (32)
- 2000/2005: The Toy Trunk (32)
- 2006/2023+: Boboli Cafe (32)

**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 This act was repealed in 1884.

**George Houston** had a liquor store & grocery business here from c1867 until some time in the 1870s. Although there were others, Houston seemed to have the most prominent liquor store in town. He is not listed in an 1882 business directory. Unsure if the Scott Act put Houston out of business, but his business seemed to have disappeared around that time. He closed before 1884.

**Moore & Carnegie**, wines & liquors, probably opened in 1884, with the repeal of the Scott Act in that year. James Moore lived next door, upstairs, in the Craig Block. John H. Carnegie boarded at the Revere House. A continuation of the old Houston liquor store (with a break because of prohibition), in the same spot, it didn't last long, closing about 1886..

1899-1900 directory states that Mrs. Catherine Houston (widow of George Houston) resides at King St. East over D.W. Ross store. (King St divided at Court House ave in the 1800s); 1886, 2nd floor over 141 King.

**R.H. Gamble**, photographer, was here briefly in 1886-87. They moved to the Flint Block on the King/Court House Ave. in 1887. (The 1887 directory shows them in both locations.) Gamble & Co. were successors to the A.C. McIntyre photography business. Robert H. Gamble lived on Church St. at this point. Moving into the mid 1890s, Gamble seems to have dropped photography altogether and became an insurance agent for Confederation Life.

**Ross & Burns** butcher shop was opened 18xx by Daniel W. Ross and Thomas Burns. Ross lived out on the 3rd Concession in Elizabethown. Burns lived at what is now 48 Perth St.. Burns had owned a butcher business, first on Perth Street in or near his home, then by 1889 in the structure on the intersection of King and Broad that was once the site of the Dunham Block. In 1891, Burns would have had to vacate the King/Broad building, since it was being demolished to make way for the Dunham Block. He would have taken on Ross as a partner at this time. This partnership was short-lived and ended about 1897. At this point, Burns left and opened his own butcher shop again in the York building, at what is now 132 King St. W. He had left butchering by 1910, replaced by J. Hunter & Sons at that address. Meanwhile, Ross had continued on at this address until closing sometime in the first decade of the 1900s.

**R. Craig**, furriers & men's furnishings, occupied this spot as the western half of their store from sometime in the first decade of the 1900s to 1915. The main store was next door to the east at #30.

**Samuel Schrybman** was a ladies tailor, here from the first decade of the 1900s to around 1916. He lived upstairs in the building.

A.P. Louch started out as an electrician working for R.H. Smart. In 1915, he opened his own shop here, calling it **A.P. Louch**. By 1917, he took on a partner with a new business, **Louch & Mackey**, with John W. Mackey. On top of doing electrical work in homes, they stocked, for sale, electric fixtures, fans & lamps, auto supplies, gasoline engines, etc. Arthur P. Louch lived at 59 Wall St., while Mackey lived at 96 Pine St.. The partnership did not last long, with Louch re-opening as the **The Louch Electric** at 94 King St. W. This stayed open until 1925.

**J.R. Bresnan & Son** was a coal and wood business opened by James R. Bresnan and his son James A. around 1918. They advertised themselves as "The Coal Men", and had their dock on the river at the end of Park St. By 1946, James R was gone, with only James A. running things. Around 1947, the establishment became **Vickers-Gorri** with Victor C. Vickers as President and G Gorrie as Secretary-Treasurer. They advertised themselves as "Dealers in Coal, Coke and Fuel Oil". He lived with his wife Mary in Matiland. About 1951, the fuel business moved to 101 King St. W., in the Ross Block. Around 1955, Vickers-Gorri was acquired by **Brockville Fuels** and closed.

**R.J. Dunn** was a photography shop upstairs at #34 and owned by Robert J. Dunn, who also lived upstairs in the building. It was in business c1922 to c1942.

**Claire's Hat Shoppe** opened about 1953 with Mrs. Clara McRae (who also went by Claire) as manager. She lived with her husband Douglas, who was a traveling salesman, in an apt. at 98 Pine St. About 1962, the business was taken over as manager by Ethel Earl, and expanded the name to **Claire's Hat & Dress Shoppe** Earl lived at 45 Sevenoaks Ave. About 1970, the shop began its brief tenure managed by Mrs Marion Hoyland and renamed **La Juenesse Fashions**, closing about 1972.

**The Stag Shoppe** replaced La Juenesse about 1972. It offered "Quality Men's Wear". Initially owned by William L. Waddingham, it went to Leonard W. Waddingham a couple of years later. About 1979, Malcolm T. Severson took over. Severson changed the name to **Flannels** about 1987, continuing as a men's clothing store. The business was acquired by Bruce Fullarton around 1991 and closed about 1998. This ended about 45 years as a clothing store, hats to ladies fashion to men's wear.

Gwen Featherston opened **Gwen-Dola Beauty Salon** upstairs around 1942. Gwen advertised "All Lines of Beauty Culture, Experienced Operators Only". She lived upstairs at 6 King St. W. It stayed in business until around 1965.

This location saw clothing/fashion outlets for many years. First with **Claire's Hat & Dress Shoppe**, starting c1962. From there, it was **La Juenesse Fashions** opening c1970. Next was **The Stag Shop**, c1972. Finally, we had **Flannels**, operated by Malcolm T. Severson, from c1986 until its closing c1998.

**The Toy Trunk** was a toy store opened by Ms Patrice Beech around 1998 and closed about 2005.

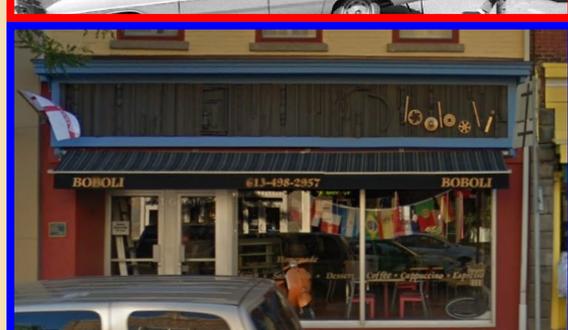
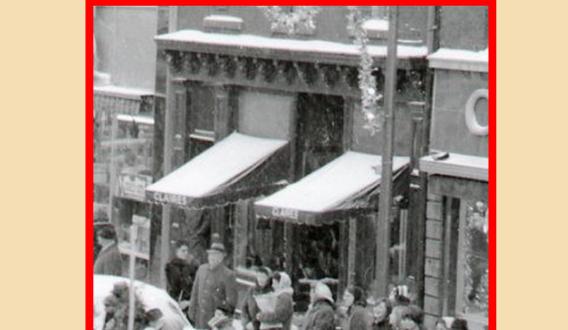
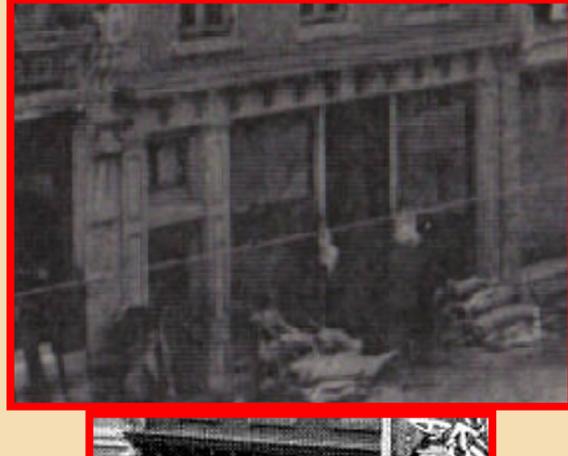
Kathy Lewis owns the current business, **Boboli Cafe**. She started it in 1993, having Brockville's first cappuccino machine, and it was the first non-smoking restaurant. Originally at another location, she moved to this location in 2005.

## INTERIOR



The interior of Boboli Cafe from trip advisor.

## STOREFRONTS



The first pic is from the early 20th century but probably is the original storefront of George Houston's liquor store. Gwen-Dola Beauty Salon, with the Clairrol sign is second. Claire's Hat & Dress Shoppe is next, still had the old storefront style. You can see their name at the end of the window awning. It was with La Juenesse Fashions that the storefront had been totally remodeled. The door had been moved to the left side, with a double large window area, replacing a middle door with windows on each side. This followed through to today. The current Boboli Cafe on bottom.

## ADVERTISING

Photographs in the Latest Styles.

**R. H. GAMBLE,**  
(Successor to A. C. McIntyre.)

**1000 ISLAND STUDIO,**  
Court House Avenue, opposite the new Post Office, Brockville, Ont.

Studio refitted and furnished with the latest appliances and accessories for doing  
studio portraits with LIFE SIZE PORTRAITS and all the  
latest photographs can be obtained.

**COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHING.**

In all its branches reproduced in the best manner and executed on cloth or cardboard.  
Always ready on the shortest notice to photograph anything animals or landscapes  
from a store to 16x20. My outfit for viewing is very complete for in or out door work.

→MINTYRE'S VIEWS OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS←

Elmer Minter, Photographer, was extended to be the finest specimens ever pro-  
duced of the history of the River St. Lawrence. The negatives have been made  
from artistically selected steel-plate and embrace all the best points along the St.  
Lawrence from Ogdensburg to Fort Colborne, making a collection of

**OVER 2,400 NEGATIVES.**

None waiting. Photos from old negatives can always have them on short notice.

**PARTY BUT FIRST-CLASS ARTISTS EMPLOYED.**

A number of new instruments have just been added. Pictures enlarged from the  
smallest to life size. Orders by mail promptly attended to.

R.H. Gamble, photography, 1887;

## STREET SCENE



This street scene from c1869 shows Houston's Liquor store as a standalone building. It was taken a couple of years after it was built. Neither the Merrill block on the westerly side or the "Craig" block on the easterly side had been built yet. Within a decade, both would be there.