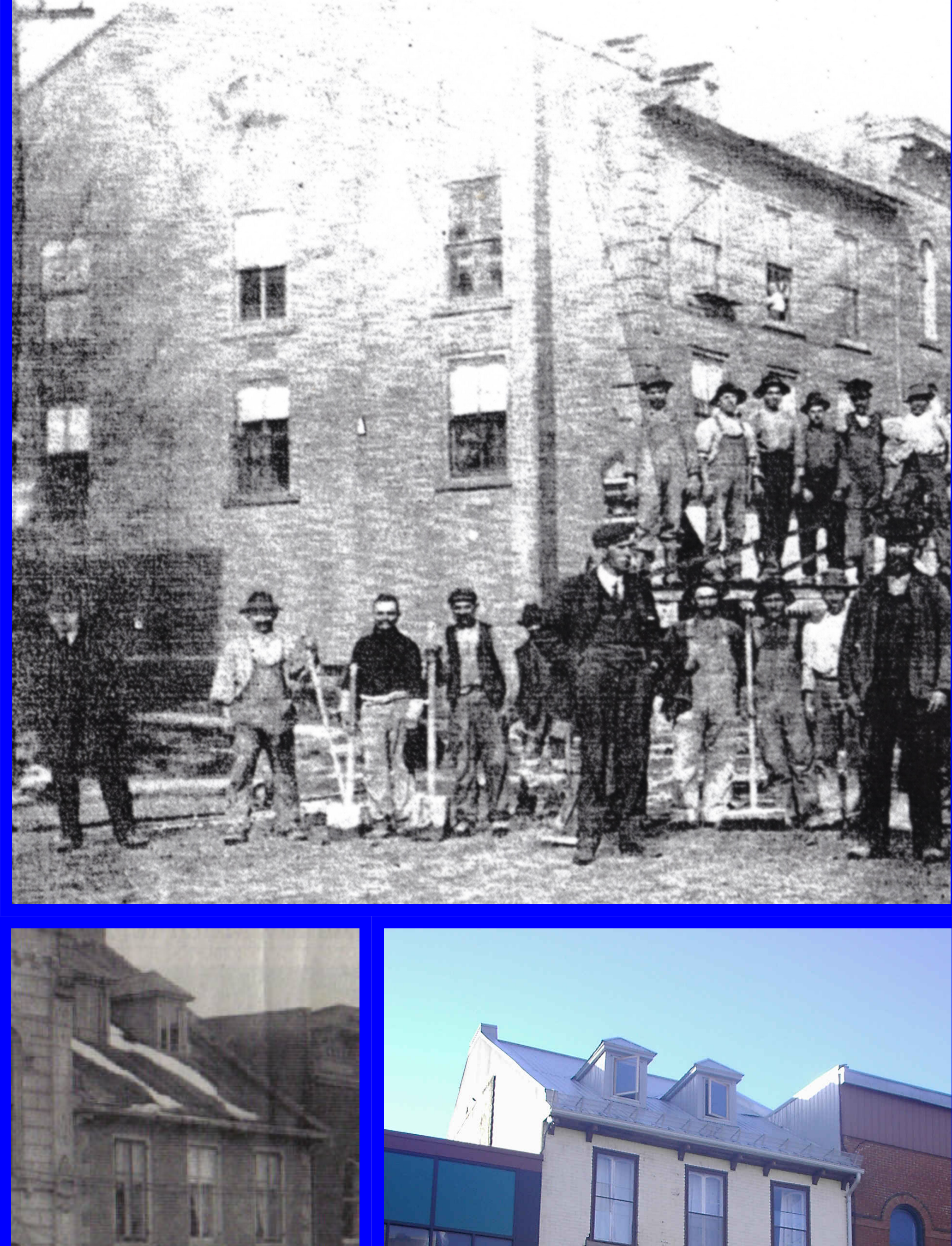




HOUSTON BUILDING

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 This act was repealed in 1884.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 Elizabethtown. Burns lived at what is now [48 Perth St. L.](#) 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 1953, 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.

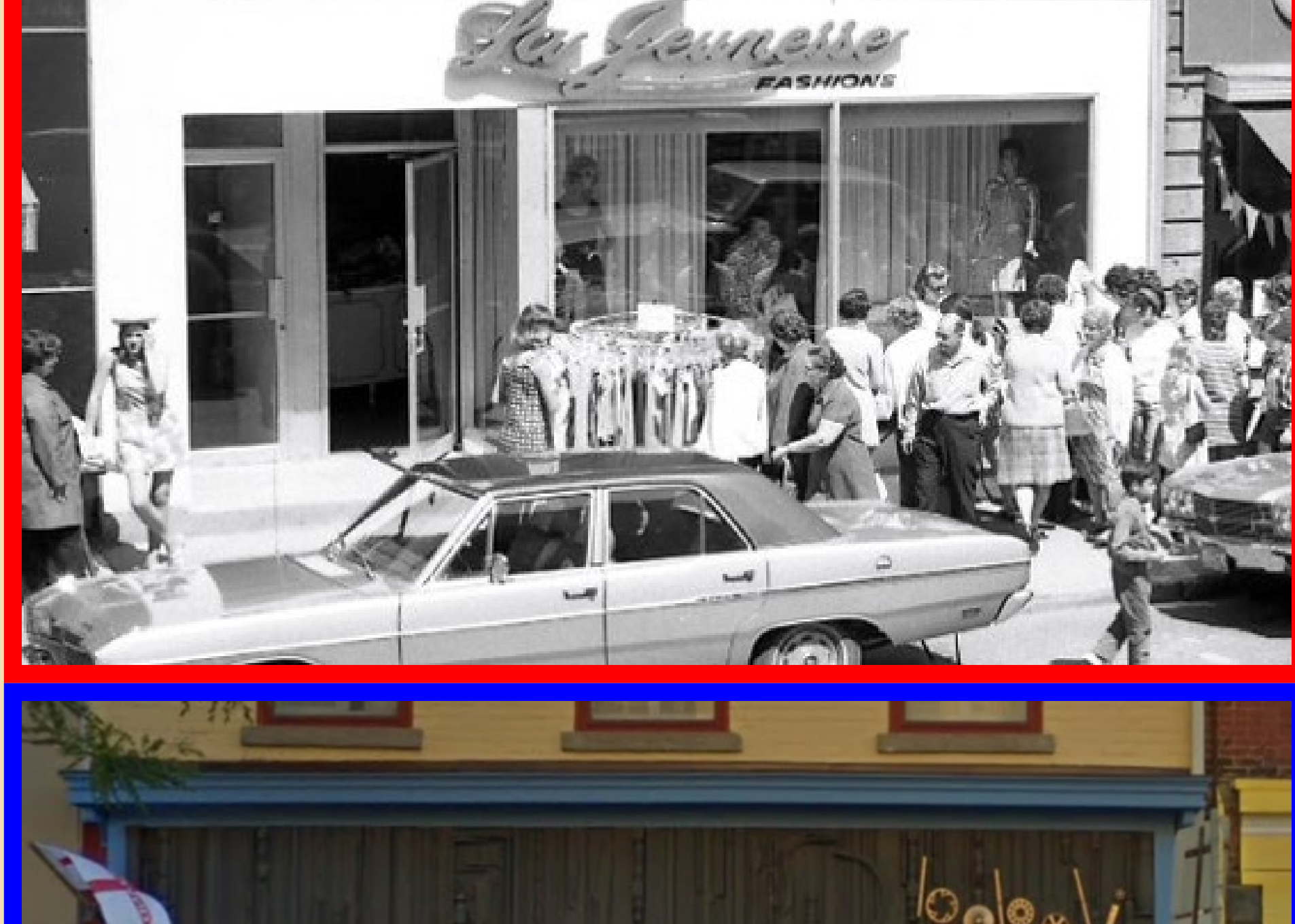
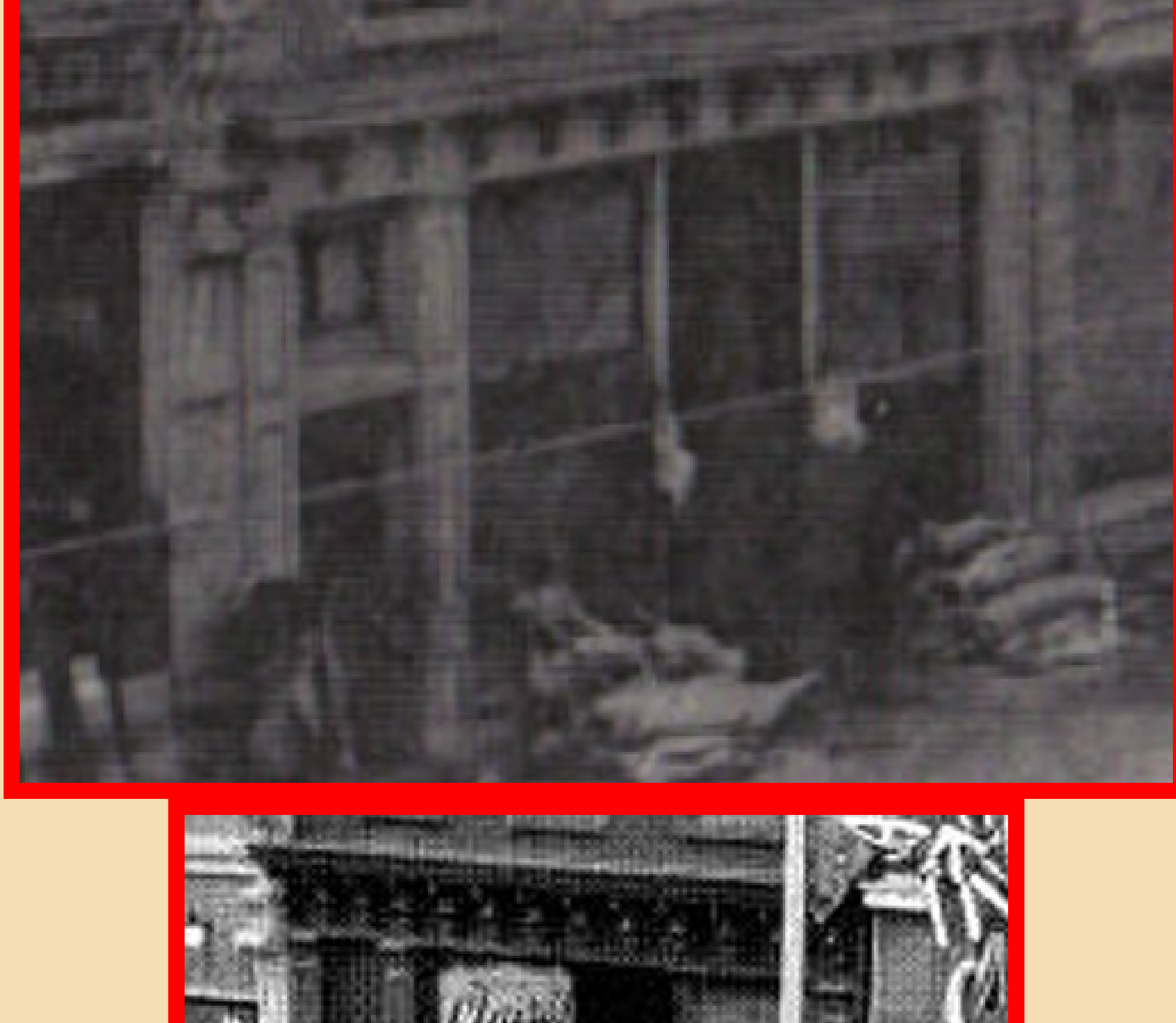
Kathy Lewis owns the current business, **Boboli Cafe**. She started it in 1993, having Brockville's first cappuccino machine, and it was the first non-smoking restaurant. Originally at another location, she moved to this location in 2005.

INTERIOR



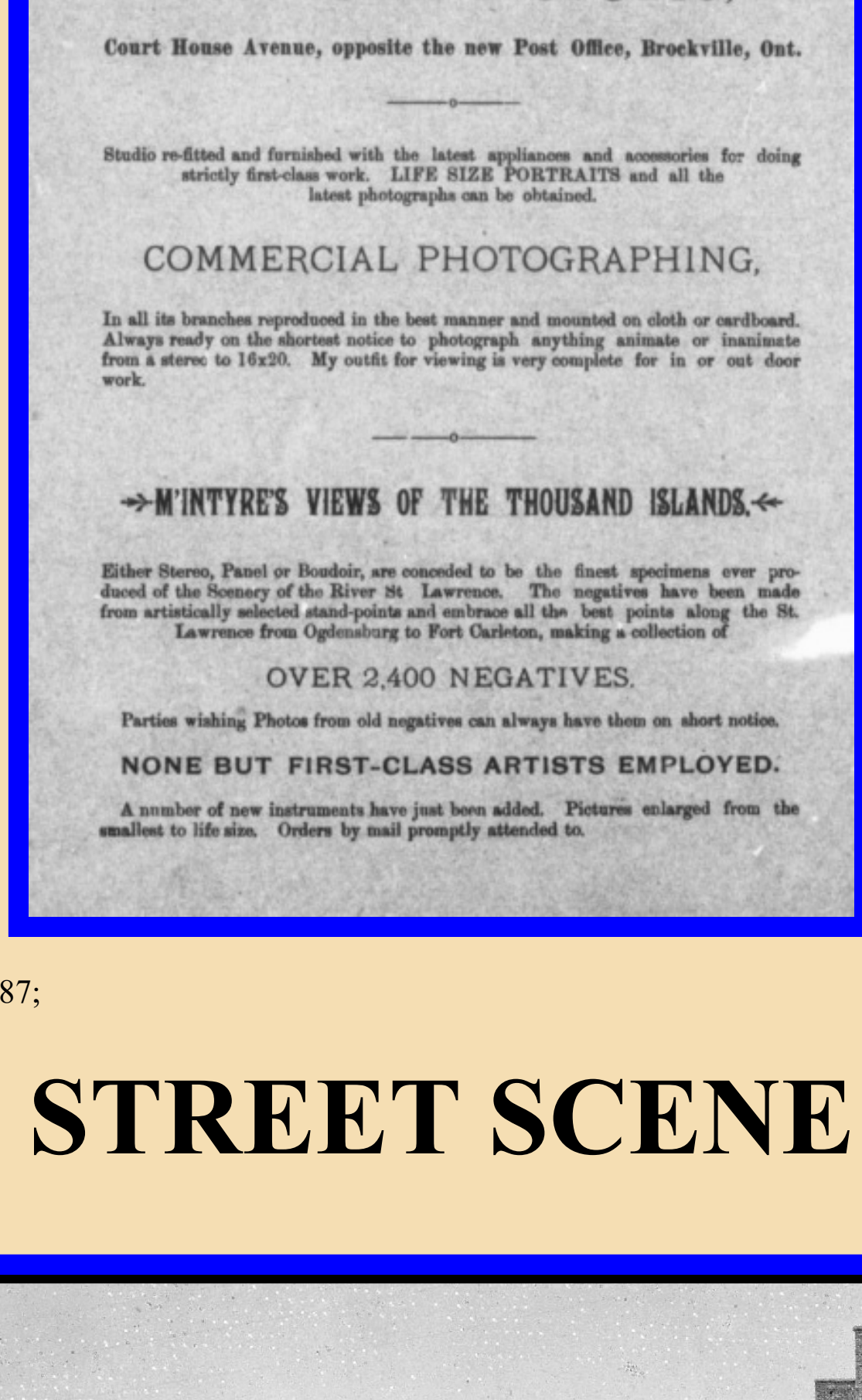
The interior of Boboli Cafe from trip advisor.

STOREFRONTS



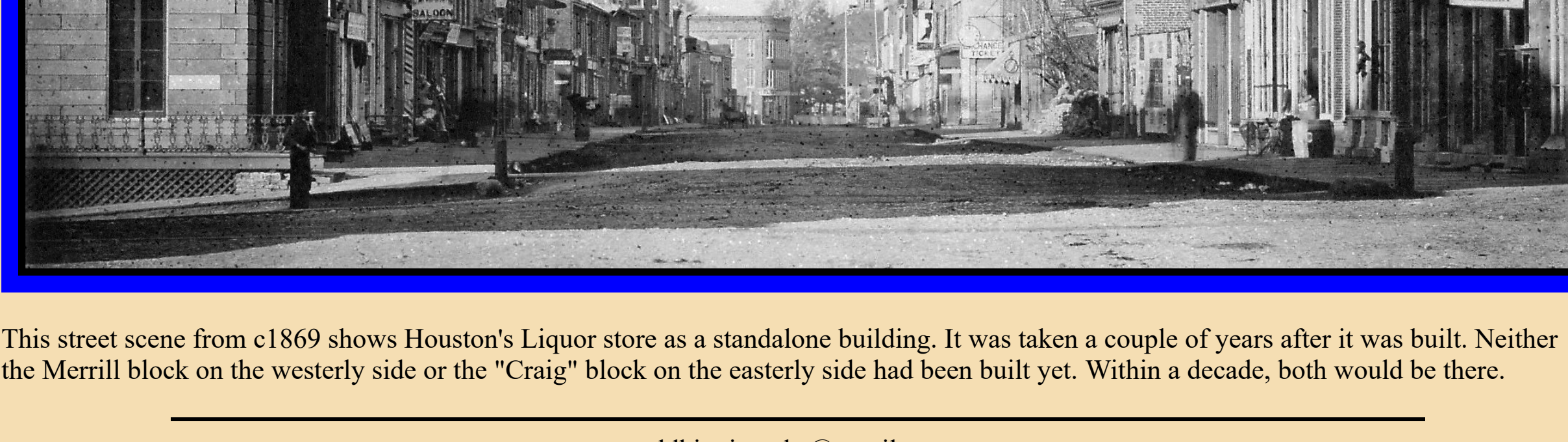
The first pic is from the early 20th century but probably is the original storefront of George Houston's liquor store. Gwen-Dola Beauty Salon, with the Clairrol sign is second. Claire's Hat & Dress Shoppe is next, still had the old storefront style. You can see their name at the end of the window awning. 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



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.