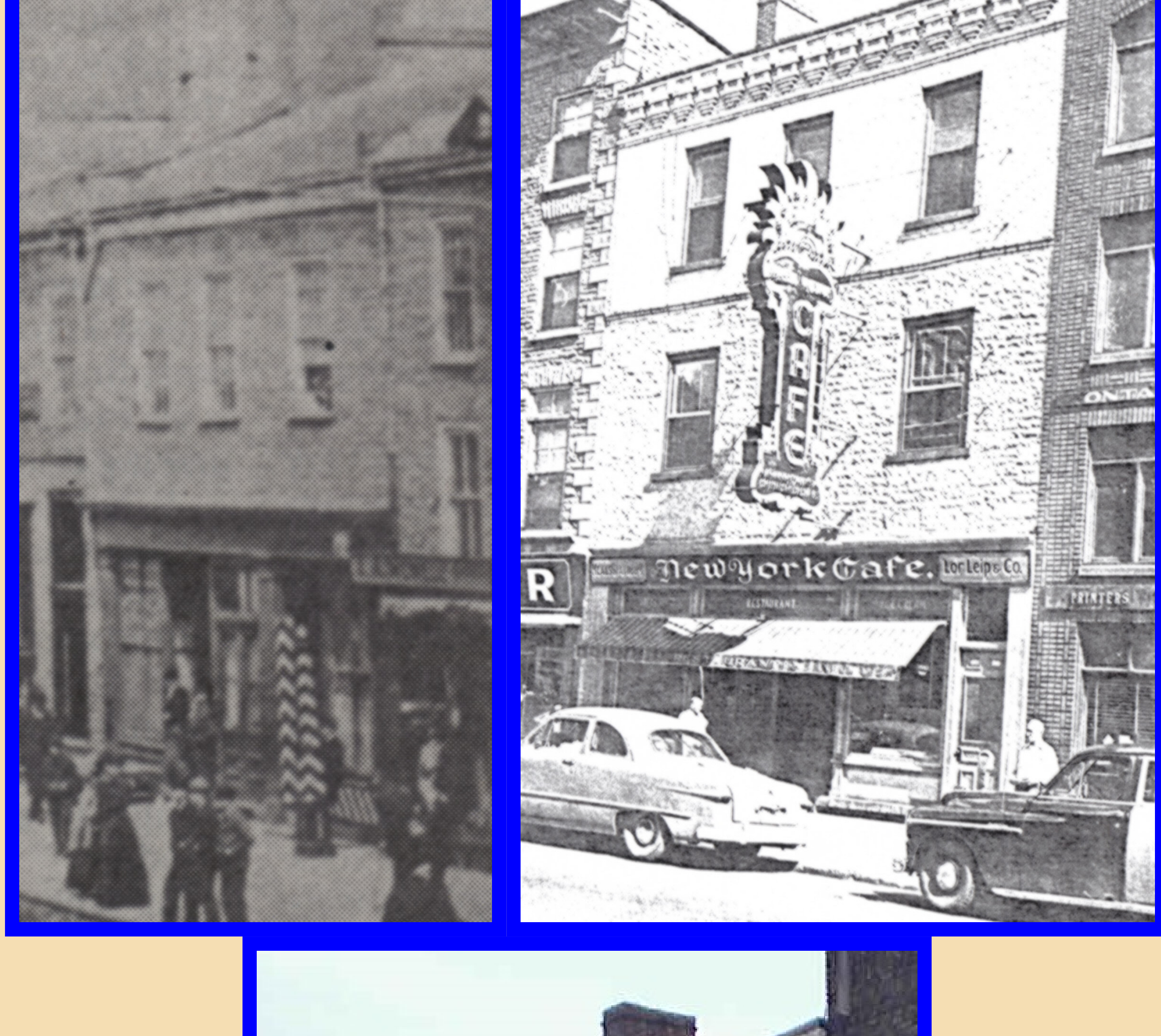




# NEW YORK BLOCK

## c1850 ?

19 - 21 King St. West



### DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- 1884/1885: Joshua Johnston, barber shop
- 1886/1890: John A. Johnston, barber shop
- 1895: Mrs. J. Larocque, restaurant
- 1900: Dominion Trading Stamp Co.
- 1910/1924: Soper Grocery (Allan Soper & Co.)
- 1926: Taylor Grocery
- 1928: McMullen Grocery (Lloyd McMullen)
- 1930/2019: New York Cafe / New York Restaurant
- 2019/202?: vacant
- 192?: Pho Hut restaurant

**Joshua Johnston** had his barber shop here in the early 1880s and possibly before. He lived at on Gourley St. **John Johnston** (son?) replaced him from c1886 to c1892. He boarded on Dyer St.

**Mrs. J. Larocque** had her restaurant here from c1892 to c1898. She lived in the building with husband John, a labourer.

The **Dominion Trading Stamp Co.** opened c1898 and was owned by Langley & Co and managed by Miss Margaret Steele. She shared with Judson Cole on the 's s George, 1 w of C H sq', which would be today's [S George St.](#)

The **Allen E. Soper's** grocery started sometime in the first decade of the 1900s. Soper lived at [256 King St. E.](#) After around two decades, it was replaced with **Taylor's** grocery about 1925.

**William C. Taylor** originally opened his grocery at 81 King St. W. in the Fitzsimon's Block about 1916. He lived at [33 Wall St.](#) After moving here around 1925, it was gone by 1927.

**McMullen Grocery** was opened by Lloyd McMullen about 1927, but closing about 1930, possibly because of the onset of the Great Depression, after a short existence.

The **New York Cafe** was opened in 1930 by Lor Leip and Agnes Lor, who were recently married. Leip's father, Lor Joek Wing had immigrated from China and opened Quong Sing Laundry, on King St. E. Originally, it did not serve Chinese food, relying more on roast beef and roast chicken, with other items, such as lobster, bear and frogs. The frogs came from both local farmers and a Montreal distributed. The switch to Chinese food came in the mid 1930s because of a trend in that direction across North America. Lor Leip died in 1958 and Agnas continued running the business. The Lors had five children who helped out in the early years.

In the early years, it developed into a small regional chain, having locations also in Gananoque, Prescott and Iroquois. Another family member had a restaurant under the same name in North Bay. It is unknown if it predated this one or came after. Celebrities through the years ate here, and it was also a favourite spot for city council members as it was nearby. It became Brockville's first restaurant to serve liquor in 1962

In 1971, the business transitioned to the **New York Restaurant**, with the old attached sign, having a phoenix on top with flames, replaced by the new one with the iconic red ball everyone knows. Joe Lor, who had been an engineer, took over running the restaurant around 1980. Agnas sold the restaurant to Anlta & Rosita Leung in 1985 and retired. She died in 2001. David He was next to purchase it about 2002. Louis and Alice Yeung acquired the restaurant in 2005 and were the final owners. It closed to the public Christmas Eve 2019, with a few private seasonal parties held after. One of the longest and well known restaurants in Brockville closed after 90 years all at this location.

NOTE: There had been another New York Cafe and Restaurant operating for two decades at the other end of King St., first in the York Building and then in the Central Block. It had closed shortly before this one opened. No connection has ever been made to the previous one.

**Georgian Dragon** restaurant owners Christopher Spence, Melissa Millar and Brian Beatty acquired the property and put signs up that they were opening here. They had been located in the Kincaid Block at #72 King St. W. However the pandemic happened shutting the economy down and in the end, nothing happened. They donated the distinctive New York neon sign to the Brockville museum.

**Pho Hut** is a Vietnamese - Thai cuisine restaurant. The original one is in Gananoque, with this second location in the process of opening.

[CBC News: Closing of New York Restaurant](#)

## STOREFRONTS



New York Cafe; New York Cafe; New York Restaurant; Pho Hut Restaurant;

## THE INTERIOR



## ADVERTISING

**NEW YORK CAFE**  
 BROCKVILLE'S NEWEST AND MOST MODERN RESTAURANT  
 19 KING W. LOR LEIP & CO., Proprietors PHONE 1435

**NEW YORK CAFE — BROCKVILLE**  
 Restaurants under same name and management in Gananoque, Prescott, Iroquois

<b>Brockville — Montreal</b>	<b>Brockville — Toronto</b>
Brockville ... .. 0.0	Brockville ... .. 0.0
Prescott ... .. 12.0	Mallorytown ... .. 13.0
Cardinal ... .. 20.0	Gananoque ... .. 32.5
Iroquois ... .. 27.0	Kingston (turn) ... .. 51.0
Morrisburg ... .. 34.0	Napanee ... .. 75.5
Cornwall ... .. 62.0	Deseronto ... .. 82.0
Lancaster ... .. 78.0	Shannonville ... .. 93.5
St. Zotique, Que. ... 92.5	Belleville ... .. 101.5
Coteau Landing ... 94.5	Trenton ... .. 112.0
Cedars ... .. 100.5	Brighton ... .. 121.0
Cascade Point ... 108.5	Colborne ... .. 130.0
Saint Anne's ... .. 115.0	Cobourg ... .. 145.0
Lachine ... .. 130.5	Port Hope ... .. 153.0
Montreal ... .. 138.5	Newcastle ... .. 169.0
	Bowmanville ... .. 174.0
	Oshawa ... .. 183.0
	Whitby ... .. 187.5
	Pickering ... .. 193.5
	Toronto ... .. 216.0
<b>Brockville — Ottawa</b>	<b>Toronto — Windsor</b>
Brockville ... .. 0.0	Toronto ... .. 0.0
Prescott ... .. 12.0	Port Credit ... .. 13.3
Johnstown (turn) .. 15.5	Oakville ... .. 23.1
Crystal Rock ... .. 17.0	Burlington ... .. 34.4
Glen Small ... .. 19.5	Hamilton ... .. 43.0
Spencerville ... .. 23.0	Bramford ... .. 65.0
Groveton ... .. 26.5	Paris ... .. 73.0
Kemptville ... .. 36.5	Woodstock ... .. 93.5
Bridgville ... .. 40.0	Ingersoll ... .. 102.5
North Gower ... .. 48.5	London ... .. 122.5
Carsonby ... .. 51.0	Lambeth ... .. 129.0
Mantolock ... .. 56.0	Wardsville ... .. 159.9
Ottawa ... .. 72.0	Thamesville ... .. 174.1
	Chatham ... .. 189.7
	Tilbury ... .. 206.7
	Maldstone ... .. 231.8
	Windsor ... .. 244.2

New York Cafe, 1931; early New York Cafe info card; (Information acquired from the various directories, Kimball's, Foster's, Vernon's, Wikipedia, CBC News, Brockville Museum)