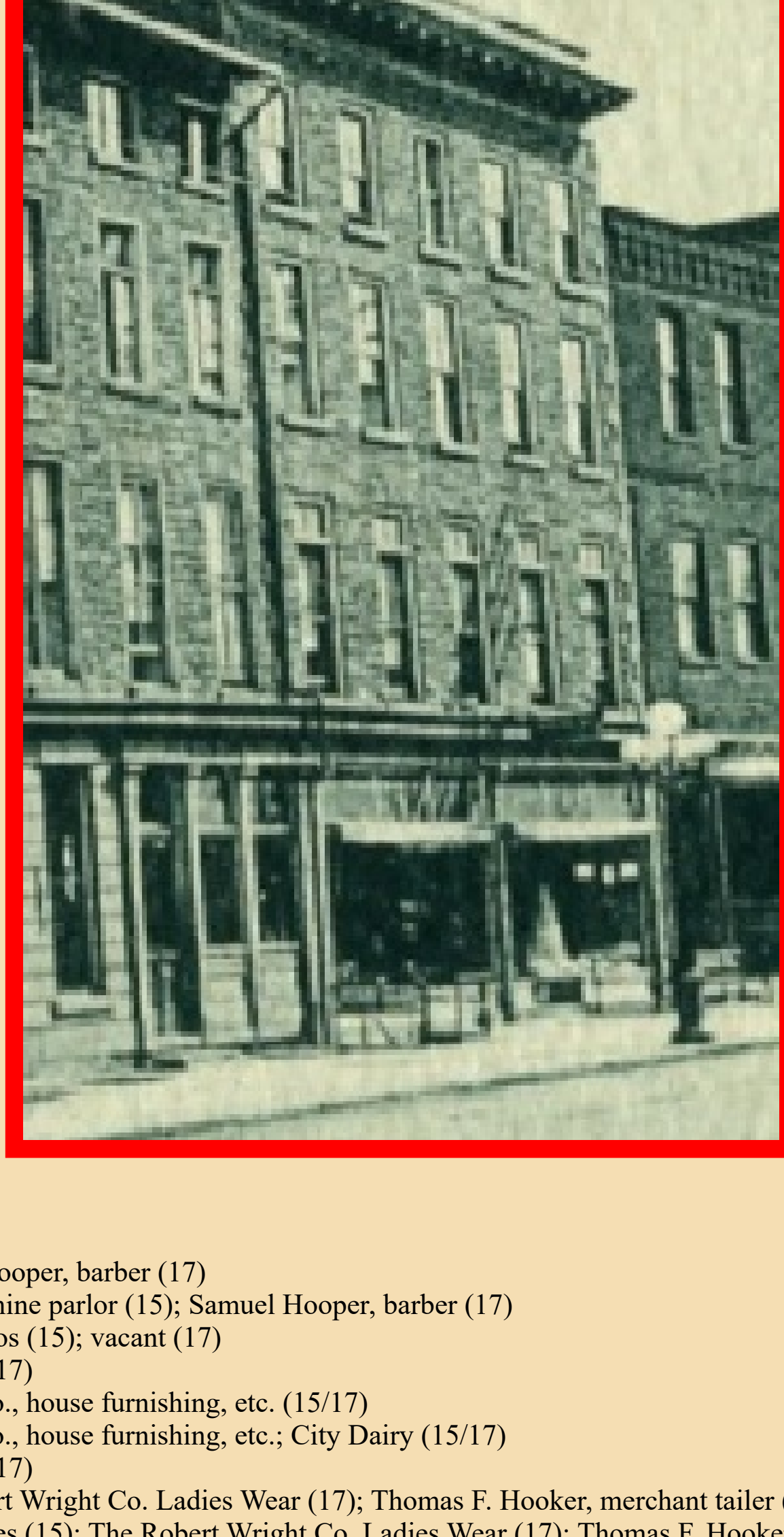




REVERE WEST BLOCK c1910 - 1974

15 - 17 King St. West 2 Storefronts



DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- 1910: vacant (15); Samuel Hooper, barber (17)
- 1913: Joseph Maltett, shoe shine parlor (15); Samuel Hooper, barber (17)
- 1915: Edward D. Price, photos (15); vacant (17)
- 1917: vacant (15); no entry (17)
- 1919/1921: C.E. Johnston Co., house furnishing, etc. (15/17)
- 1924/1925: C.E. Johnston Co., house furnishing, etc.; City Dairy (15/17)
- 1929: vacant (15); no entry (17)
- 1931: vacant (15); The Robert Wright Co. Ladies Wear (17); Thomas F. Hooker, merchant tailor (17.5)
- 1935/1946: W.A. Argue, shoes (15); The Robert Wright Co. Ladies Wear (17); Thomas F. Hooker, merchant tailor (17.5)
- 1949/1952: W.A. Argue, shoes (15); The Robert Wright Co. Ladies Wear (17); Saunders Tailor Shop, merchant tailor (17.5)
- 1954: W.A. Argue, shoes (15); CFJR Radio Station (17); Saunders Tailor Shop, merchant tailor (17.5)
- 1956: W.A. Argue, shoes (15); CFJR Radio Station (17); Pal's Tailor Shop (17.5)
- 1960/1966: R.J. Argue, shoes (15); CFJR Radio Station (17); Pal's Tailor Shop (17.5)
- 1969/1974: Clarence Babcock Home Furnishings (15); Value Fair Marts (17); Pal's Tailor Shop (17.5)

The Revere West Block was built because the Revere House hotel needed to expand. The two old buildings (below) were demolished. This commercial block was built with two storefronts on the bottom level, and upper floors that could be used for more hotel rooms.

Fraser & Reynolds, barristers, were Hon. C.F. Fraser, Q.C., M.P.P. [home James St.] and E.J. Reynolds, [home 64 King. E. (1880s address)]

Samuel Hooper moved his barbershop here from over on the "Hooper-Recorder" Block on the north side. Hooper was an opening business here, as he was at his last address. He was gone by 1915.

C.E. Johnston Co. started out around 1908 in the Merrell Block, selling house furnishings. About 1918, the business moved over to this block. As with many furniture stores, they added funeral directing to their line of work and probably needed more space as they took over two storefronts while here. After a decade or so, Johnston moved his business a few doors down the street to the Hutcheson Block. Charles E. lived with his wife Rachel at [42 Wall St.](#)

No. 17.5 King St. W. had a tailor shop in it from around 1930 right up until the building was gone in 1974. First was **Thomas F. Hooker**, who was there for a little more then a decade. He was replaced by **Saunders Tailor Shop** about 1948. This establishment was owned by Arnold E. Saunders, who lived at [21 Georgia St.](#) Theodore R. Pal, who lived with wife Winnie out on the Prescott Rd. opened his **Pal's Tailor Shop** next. Pal's was the longest lasting remaining here until the 1974 fire, two decades of business. Pal did not re-open, preferring at this point in life in going across the street and working at Craig's. The fire ended 45 years of tailoring here who knows how much longer it would have went on!

W.A. Argue shoes was opened by Wilfred A. Argue around 1933. He lived with his wife Reba at 49 Victoria St. (now demolished). Later years, he lived at [11 George St.](#) The business became R.J. Argue shoes by 1960, when Wilfred retired. It was taken over by his son Robert J. He as his wife resided at [48 Pearl St. E.](#) at this time. Robert passed away around 1967 as only Marion is listed after and is working at Edwards Florist. At this point, without Robert, the store closed. Wilfred was still alive and was around until c1974.

After several decades down the street in the Dunham Block, **The Robert Wright Co.** sold out to The Canadian Department Stores, Ltd. after Robert Wright passed away and his five sons inherited the business. Only one of the five, Alexander Innis Wright, re-opened the business here with his father's name, on a smaller scale, a ladies wear store. They lived at [422 King St. W.](#) Some time around 1940, Innis passed away, and the business was carried on by his wife, Maud.

CFJR Radio, originally **CFLC**, moved to the ground level at #17 in 1953, from the main Revere House hotel next door. The station originated in Prescott, and moved to the Brockville area in 1942 and becoming **CFBR**. Moving just outside of town, then the Fulford Block, then Revere and finally here. A couple more call letter changes, and it ended up being called **CFJR** in 1950, named after owner Jack Radford. 21-year-old college dropout, Peter Jennings, joined the **CFJR** news team in 1959. Jennings was picked up by the **CBC** in 1961, and eventually landed as the main anchor for the **ABC** network's 'World News Tonight' in the United States. The station made its final move to 601 Stewart Boulevard in 1968.

Clarence Babcock Home Furnishings opened around 1968. He did not re-open the business after the 1974 fire and seems to have left the city as no sign of him after. The same goes for **Value Fair Marts**, in the same time period. It was managed by Douglas Stronghill, who was also gone from the city afterward.

THE 1974 FIRE



The last and perhaps largest of the great King St. fires was first noticed by pipeline worker Terry Clancy on Nov. 6, 1974 shortly after 9pm. It quickly consumed the building and was fought by 100 firefighters from 4 fire departments. There were two fatalities, Gertrude Steed, who lived there and her sister, Dora, who was visiting that night. It was later concluded the fire was started from faulty wiring. The Revere West addition, seen in the bottom right photo, while heavily damaged internally, seems to be intact enough to have been saved/rebuilt. Instead, it was demolished with the rest of the hotel. (photos: Recorder & Times)

STOREFRONTS



ADVERTISING



EARLIER BUILDINGS c1830 - c1909 65 - ?? King St. (1880s address)

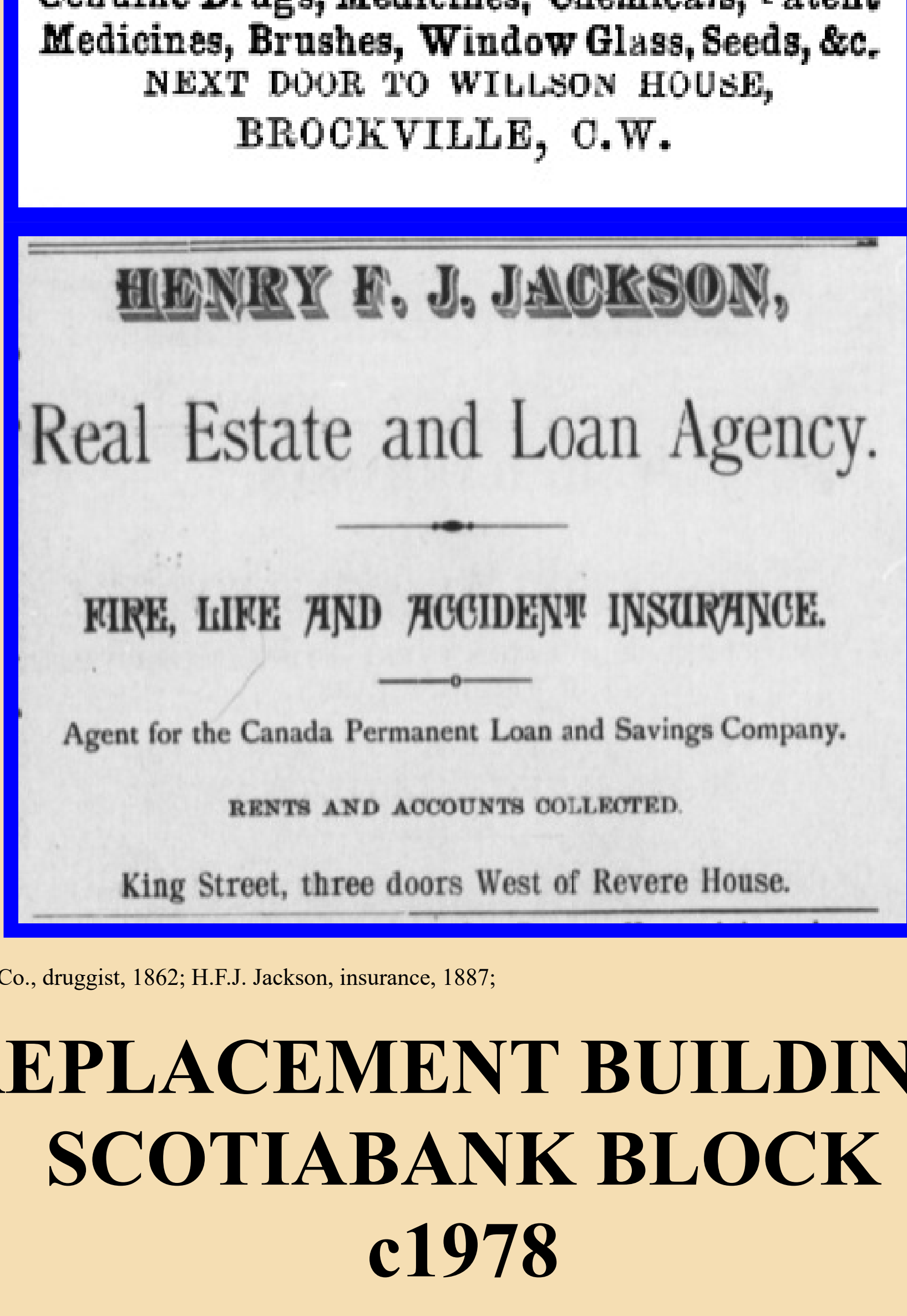


DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- 1862: G.H. Turner & Co., druggist; --- ?? ---
- c1868: Cigars & Tobacco store; ??
- 1886: Fraser & Reynolds, barristers (*); H.F.J. Jackson, estate & insurance agent (17*)
- 1890: Mrs. Betts, fancy goods (15*); H.F.J. Jackson, estate & insurance agent (17*)
- 1895: A.M. Doyle, harnessmaker (15*); J.W. Higgins, laundry (17*)
- 1900: J.W. Higgins, laundry (15*); William O. Breckon, photographer (17*)

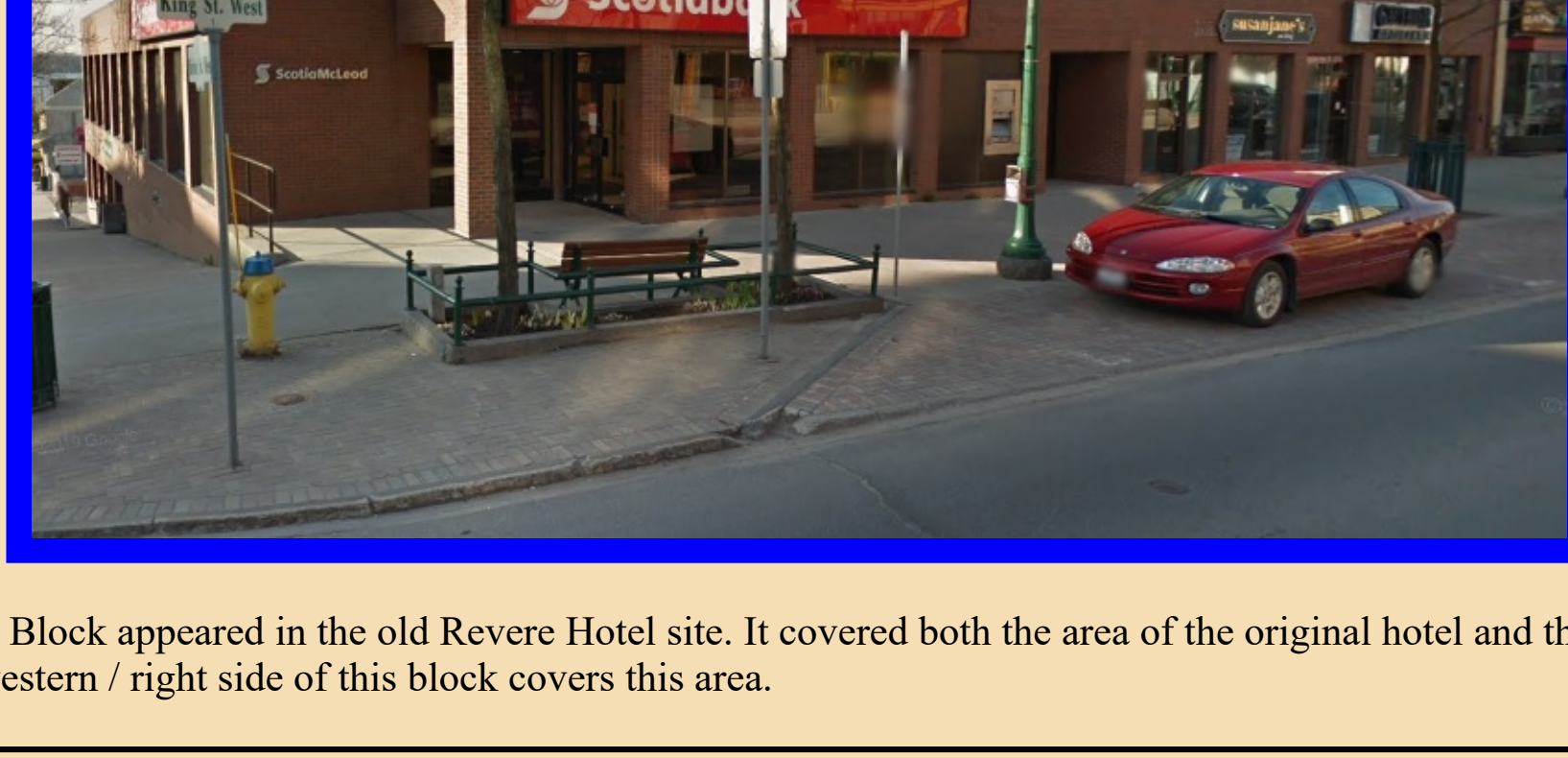
These two buildings, preceding the Revere West Block, are believed to have been built in the 1820s or 1830s. They were demolished around 1909 to make way for the building of the Revere West Block.

ADVERTISING



G.H. Turner & Co., druggist, 1862; H.F.J. Jackson, insurance, 1887;

REPLACEMENT BUILDING SCOTIABANK BLOCK c1978



The Scotiabank Block appeared in the old Revere Hotel site. It covered both the area of the original hotel and the Revere West addition. The western / right side of this block covers this area.