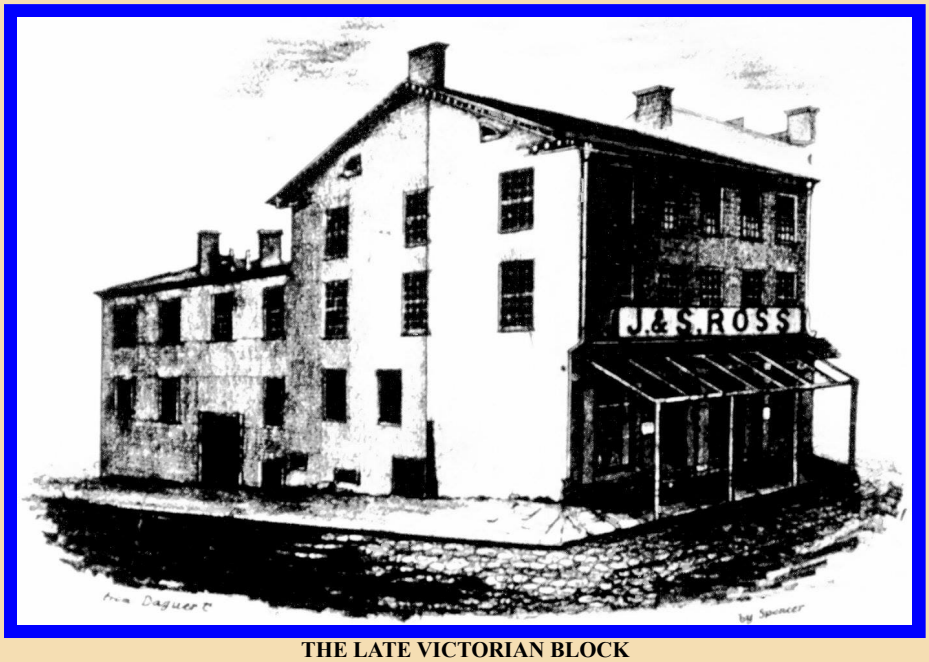
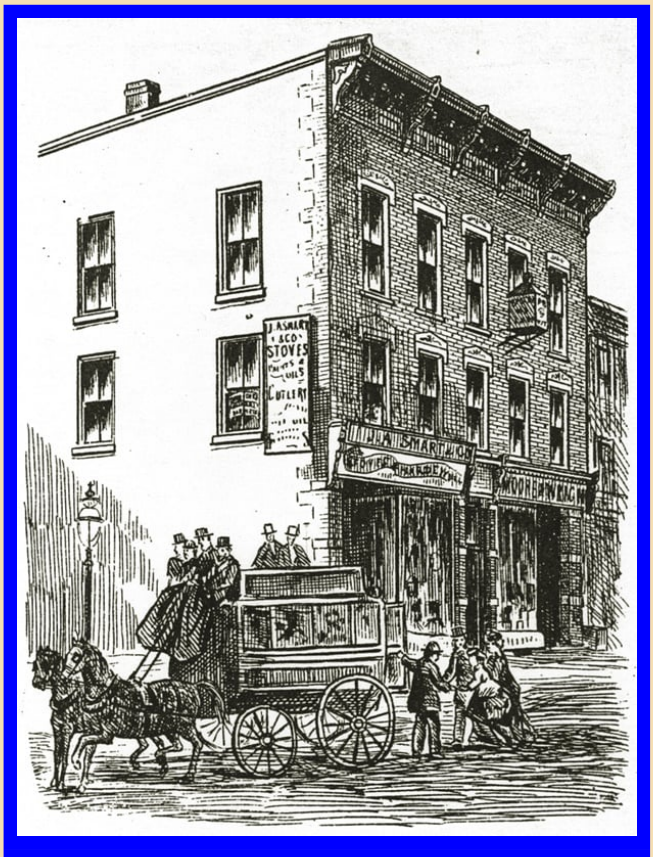
ROSS BLOCK
c1840's

103 - 105 King St. West
85, 87 Main St. (1860's)

THE EARLY BUILDING



THE LATE VICTORIAN BLOCK



THE POST FIRE BLOCK

DIRECTORY LISTINGS::

1851/1858: J & S. Ross, dry goods importers, hardware, china, glass, groceries
1867/1871: John Ross, dry goods, groceries, hardware, etc (general merchant)
1879: J.A. Smart, stoves, oils, etc (101*), Moore & Wright's (105*)
1881: J. Green & Co, books & stationary (101*), Moore & Wright's (105*)
1886: J. Green & Co, books & stationary (101*), R. Wright & Co dry goods (105*); I.O.O.F Hall (103u*, 3rd fl)
1890: J. Green & Co, books & stationary (101*), R. Wright & Co dry goods (105*); YMCA rooms, Oddfellows Hall (103u*)
1895/1900: J. Green & Co, books & stationary (101*), P.B. Macnamara, clothing (105*); YMCA, Oddfellows Hall (103u*)
1911: J. Greene, books & stationary (101), Norton & Wiltse, general store (105), Oddfellows Hall (103u)
1913: J. Greene, book & stationary (101), Mowat & Jeckson, merchant tailor (105), Oddfellows Hall (103u)
1919/1925: J. Greene, books & stationary (101), W.H. Mowat, merchant tailor (105), Oddfellows Hall (103u)
1929: Liquor Control Board (101), F.R. Pratt & Sons, pianos, etc. (105), Oddfellows Hall (103u)
1935/1949: Liquor Control Board (101), Cameron-Borthwick Hardware (105), I.O.O.F Hall (103u)
1952: Vickers-Gorrie, coal (101), Cameron-Borthwick Hardware (105), I.O.O.F Hall (103u)
1961: Canadian National Express/Telegraph (101), Cameron-Borthwick Hardware (105); I.O.O.F Hall (103u)
1963: Cameron's Pharmacy (101), Cameron-Borthwick Hardware (105); I.O.O.F Hall (103u)
1965: Pollard's Pharmacy (101), Cameron-Borthwick Hardware (105); I.O.O.F Hall, 1000 Islands Baptist Church ? (103u)
1966: vacant (101), Cameron-Borthwick Hardware (105); I.O.O.F Hall, 1000 Islands Baptist Church (103u)
1971/1980: D.A. Cummings ins./real estate (101), Cameron-Borthwick Hardware (105); I.O.O.F Hall Brock Lodge #9 (103u)
1982/1988: D.A. Cummings r. estate / Williamson Adj. (101), Cummings-Cossit ins. (105); I.O.O.F Hall Brock Lodge #9 (103u)
1990: D.A. Cummings real estate (101), Cummings-Cossit ins. / DNL Financial (105); I.O.O.F Hall Brock Lodge #9 (103u)
1996: vacant (101), no listing (105); I.O.O.F Hall Brock Lodge #9 (103u)
2000: 241 Pizza (101), Brockville Pawn Shop / John's Electronics (105); I.O.O.F Hall (103u)
2006: 241 Pizza (101), Brockville Pawn Shop (105); Oddfellows Hall (103u)
2009/2018: 241 Pizza (101), Manpower (105); Oddfellows Hall (103u)
2019: 241 Pizza (101), Manpower (105);

The building in the top drawing appears in an 1853 Drawing Map of Brockville, so it was probably there before 1850.

The building appearing on this site in 1874 drawing map has a different shape. This indicates by this year, it was completely renovated into a block style, brick front late Victorian style.

John & Samuel Ross, in earliest times, had an importing of dry goods, hardware, china, glass, groceries business. The building may have been built in the 1840's for him. John Ross of later years seems to be the son of John & Jane Ross.

An 1881 ad for J. Green & Co. refers to being located on "Ross Corner", next to Moore & Wright's, this building. They had just opened within the last year or so. The business focused on books and stationary, along with other items such as wallpaper. Green's had a long history of nearly a half century, taking them as far as the late 1920s. They didn't know it then, but this was a good time to end....just before the 1929 stock market crash and the onset of the Great Depression.

Businesses that occupied the upper floors in the 1800s are Southworth & Stewart, dentists, among others.

OUTSIDE INFORMATION

As it says on the front of the 'ROSS Building', the early store in this stone building was the general merchandise business for 'John & Samuel ROSS'. Their business is also labelled on this portion of the 1853 map, at King St. & Apple St., as 'J & S ROSS'. They were importers of dry goods, hardware, china glass, and groceries.

Going back to the original top engraving of the 'Ross Building' at 101-105 King St. W., it was one of a number of drawings published in the Canadian Illustrated News on 3 May 1879, as page 2 of a picture feature headed 'Brockville Illustrated'.
They were importers of dry goods, hardware, china glass, and groceries.
From Geoff Buffett Facebook

Oddfellows hall WAS upstairs. With only 2-3 members still on this earth, the Oddfellows sold the building in 2018 or 19 to a couple from Ottawa. It went very cheap in comparison to what it could fetch in todays market.
Doug Grant Facebook

OTHER VIEWS

The side and back, much of it from the original building. The back porch would have been an add on at some point.

THE 1965 FIRE

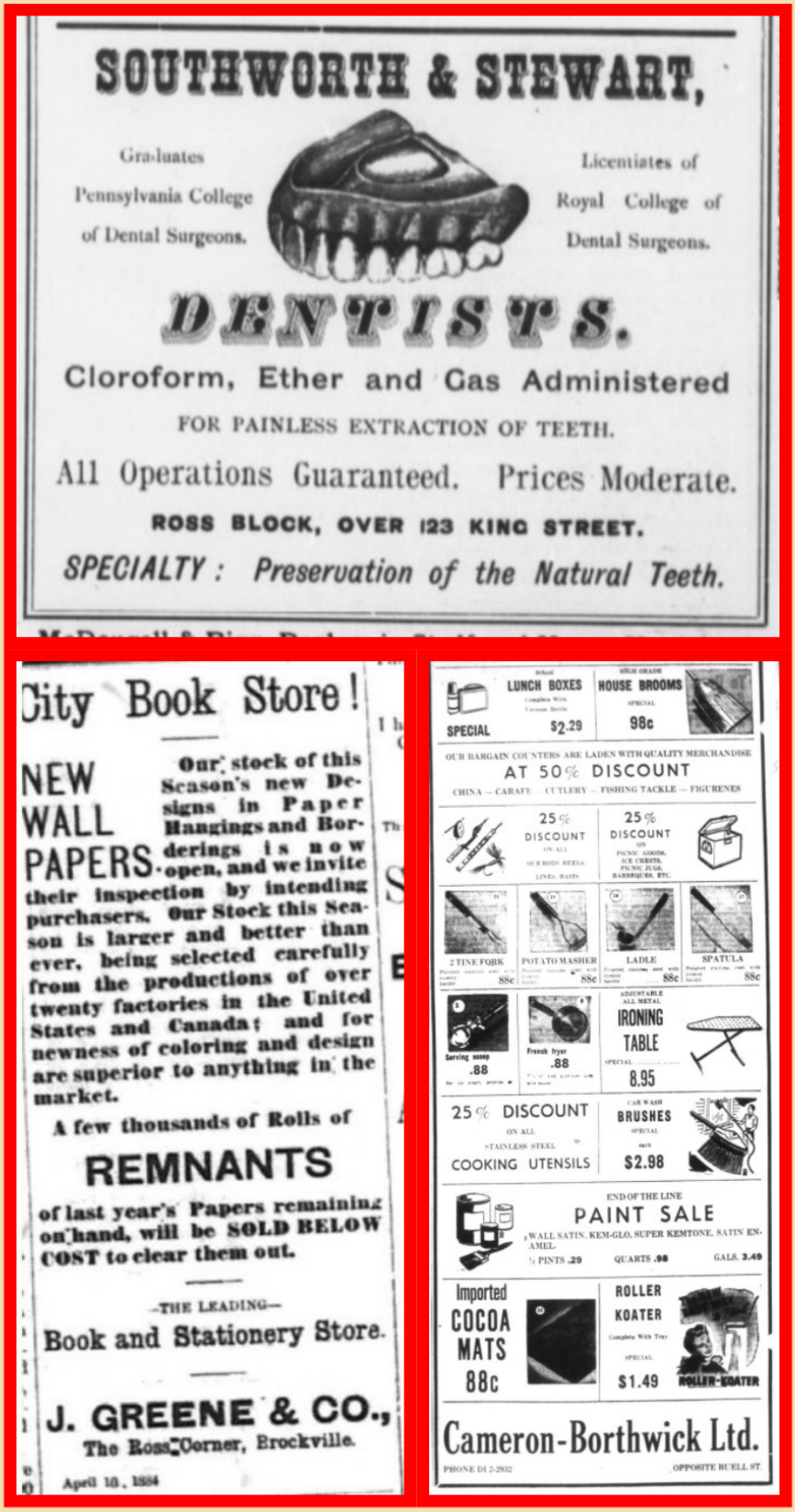
On the morning of November 9, 1965, this building was heavily damaged by fire. All of the other buildings on the block, four of them, were completely destroyed. The Ross Block was fixed with a new front.

STOREFRONTS

J. GREENE & CO

POLLARDS PHARMACY
PRESCRIPTIONS - U.S.A. DRUGS.

ADVERTISING

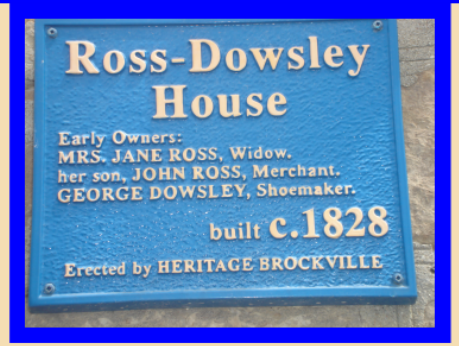


J. Greene & Co. wallpaper ad, 1884. Cameron-Borthwick Hardware ad, 1958.

THE ROSS-DOWSLEY HOUSE

c1828

Buell St.



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