



SEAMAN BUILDING

1816

234, 236 King St. West
1 Storefront



DIRECTORY LISTINGS::

- 1816/1830:: Nehemiah Seaman, tavern
- 1830s+:: Allen G. Seaman, saddle & harness
- 1873/1882:: Arthur Murphy, butcher
- 1884/1903:: Mrs Catherine Murphy, meat market
- 1911/1966:: Howison's Confectionery
- 1969/1982:: Cowan's Dairy Bar
- 1984/2001:: The Old Cornerstone
- 2003/2006:: vacant, residential only upstairs
- 2007/2014:: vacant, derelict
- 2017/2023+:: Richard's Coffee House (234)

Nehemiah Seaman purchased this lot on the corner of King and Perth in 1815 for 200 lbs. At this time, it was the most important corner in town as King was the main route east and west, with Perth the main route north heading out of town. The next year, 1816, he built this house. Seaman was a blacksmith and built a shop and barn just north of the house. He then opened a tavern in this building, which was the first of many businesses here. Nehemiah had been born in 1780 in Amenia, Dutchess County, New York and married Margaret McCready. Earlier, he had been granted 100 acres at the west boundary of Saint Lawrence Park. The Seaman's had 10 children. Nehemiah died in 1830 when he fell from St. Paul's Bridge during a storm.

Allen G. Seaman, Nehemiah's son, inherited the property after his fathers death in 1830 and set up a saddle and harness business.

About 1871, **Arthur Murphy** opened a butcher shop here. In those early days, the Murphy's lived on Ann St. Arthur passed away around 1883 with his 'widow' **Catherine Murphy** taking over the business. She is also called Kate or Mrs. Arthur Murphy. Under Catherine, the business is listed as a grocery store and/or meat market. It was here, under Catherine's tenure that the famous 1896 gun battle happened at and around her store. She continued in business past the millenium and finally closed sometime around 1905.

Howison's Confectionery opened here in 1911. George C. Howison originally was a confectioner living over top over McConkey's grocery in the Central Block. He had no business at that time, working for someone else. McConkey's? Sometime in the mid to late first decade of the 1900s, he opened his own confectionery at 232 King St. W., the other side of Perth St. In 1911, he moved his business over to this building, which he had purchased. He lived with his wife Florence here and had 8 children. His children, Helen, Marion and John worked in the store at various times. His son, Arthur W. Howison, became manager in 19xx. He and his wife Iva lived at 40 Edward St. Howison's was the first business to win a court battle to open on Sunday's. Howison's closed in the late 1960s. Daughters Helen & Marion never married and continued living in the building until thier deaths.

The store was rented out to **Cowan's Dairy Bar** around 1968. Ernie R Larocque was manager of the King St. location. He lived with wife Judith at 1311 Peden St. He was succeeded c.1974 by Lloyd and Lawrence Cowan, then just Lloyd. Lloyd lived with wife Betty at 63 Waverly Dr. Cowan's closed this location about 1983.

The Old Cornerstone ice cream parlor replaced Cowan's and opened January 1, 1986. It was owned by Ernest & Irene Sargent. It was later managed by Edward Hands, with the Sargent's still owning the building. The ice cream shop closed in 2001. We had a flood and the interior was a pretty big mess. One of the radiators upstairs split and it flooded the whole store out. said Ernest. The building then sat vacant for many years until being purchased by Sam Rawas on April 30, 2013 for renovation.

Kimberley Davey and Douglas McLean acquired the property in August, 2015 and opened **Maphin's** coffee shop. The plan was to catch the people coming and going to the Brockville Arts Centre, right across the street. Our plan is to open before all the shows, concerts, and open when the shows come out. said Davey. They laid out one wall with Popular Mechanics pages from 1958. Unfortunately, the business was gone within a couple of years.

Sam Rawas, who already owned the building, then took over and opened **Richard's Coffee House** in 2017. The coffee shop was named after his young son, Richard, not yet old enough to drink coffee. According to it's information they offer "All kinds of Coffee, Tea, Food, Sandwiches, Bourekas, Soup, Bagels, Kosher, Gelato, Smoothies, Bakery".

RENOVATION



Sam Rawas, who was from North Augusta, purchased the building on April 30, 2013, after a dozen years of it sitting derelict after a flood. He initially tried to save as much of the building as possible, but the interior was so heavily damaged that he decided the only thing savable were the four outside stone walls. It was finished with a commercial area on the first floor and a three-bedroom, 1,300 sq ft executive condominium on the upper floor, with a view of the river. The cost of building purchase and renovations was under \$400,000.

STOREFRONTS



Howison's Confectionery; Cowan's Dairy Bar; Richard's Coffee House;