

The Jones-Harding Building

41-45 King St W. at Broad St.

Originally built in 1832. Extensively renovated in 1904

This month's featured building was built on the corner property first sold to **Andrew and Anna Smith** in 1809 by **William Buell Sr.** Andrew Smith was a merchant, and built a small building at this location. In 1831 **Henry Jones**, Brockville's postmaster, purchased this 100 by 200 foot property for £525. His intention was to erect a large 3-storey stone building, "**the front to be of polished marble,**" according to a newspaper account.

In November of 1832 an advertisement in the Brockville *Recorder* announced that: "**Messrs Moses Maynard & Co. have removed to the new stone building, front of the Court House, where they will see their old customers, as usual.**" **MOSES MAYNARD & CO.** was a partnership of four U.S. citizens, **Moses Maynard, Jr., Samuel Hocking, Augustus Chapman and James Averell III.** Henry Jones, as the owner and local postmaster, also moved the Brockville Post Office to his new building.

The **MOSES MAYNARD & CO.** mercantile enterprise only lasted until 1838, when the business was dissolved by the partners. Henry Jones's new building, as we can see it in the earliest picture, has been described by noted Canadian architectural historian, **Jack Richardson**, as "*New York State architecture.*"



The earliest picture of the **Jones-Harding Building** is this engraving based on a daguerreotype taken in 1852.

Built in Brockville

Doug Grant

As well as being postmaster from 1826, Henry Jones was elected in 1830 to represent Brockville in the Upper Canada Assembly for one term. He and his brother, **Sidney Jones**, were partners in the forwarding business known as **H. & S. JONES.** H. & S. JONES had their offices and store in this building for a number of years.

In 1848 the business of **ROBERT WATSON & CO.** moved into what was then known as "the old post office." In 1851, the publisher of the Brockville *Recorder*, **David Wylie** announced in its columns that they had "**taken the upper flat of the large, cut stone building on Main St., nearly opposite the Court House Avenue, formerly occupied by Mr. John Bland, and lately by Chaffey & Brother.**"

The 1852 engraving above shows signs on the building for some of the tenants in the building. In the eastern half of the building was the office of auctioneer and commission merchant, **Fordyce L. Lothrop.** **RALPH & CONVERSE** were then operating a wholesale and retail drug store here. This business was succeeded about 1856 by **H.S. HUMPHREY &**

Co. who advertised themselves as "**chemists, druggists, and dealers in daguerreotype materials, dental instruments, &c.**" By 1860, they in turn had sold out to **A. Norman McDonald**, a young 24-year-old druggist.

It was in 1855 that Henry Jones (1790-1860), by prior arrangement, sold this building to two of his old tenants, **Augustus Chapman** from Morristown, NY, and **James Averell**, for the original price of the land, £525.

In 1862 the drug store and stock of **A.N. McDonald** were purchased by one of his druggist's clerks, **Thomas J.B. Harding** (1840-1899). Harding renamed the business the "**CITY DRUG STORE.**" The marriage of Tom Harding and **Sarah Jane McMillan** took place in Brockville on May 30, 1865. In 1868 he proceeded to purchase the Jones Building from the executors of Augustus Chapman for \$7000. **T.J.B. Harding** and his drug store continued in business here for thirty-eight years. He also operated an exchange brokerage and ticket agency here.



On a cold winter's day about sixty years ago an unknown photographer took this view of the Jones-Harding Building. In the 1950s the ground floor tenants were Ross Carrick's ENGLISH CHINA SHOP and the BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA. Some of the tenants upstairs were: LEEDS ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES, LONDON LIFE INSURANCE, Dr. Theodore J. Lynch, and the Public School Inspector's office.

In the 1880s Harding invested in a new business with a partner, C.J. Shirreff to manufacture clothes' wringers and velocipedes (later called bicycles) in a factory at the bottom of Kincaid St. First known as the VICTOR WRINGER CO., the name was later changed to the ROYAL DOMINION WRINGER CO. Thomas Harding's life ended on Aug. 22, 1899 at the age of 59.

In the 1880-90s the cigar factory of WOODS AND POULIN was located in this building. This business was operated by Bamlet R. Woods, George M. Woods, and Peter Poulin. Late in the 1890s the eastern half at 41 King St. W. was occupied by the grocery store of John Rhodes & Co.

Harding's son, William Ernest Harding (1866-1927) trained to be a doctor and established his practice here about 1895. Dr. W.E. Harding purchased the Jones-Harding Building from his father in 1895 for \$15,000 by borrowing a large amount from Frank & George Clayes.

He operated his office upstairs and in the next few years carried out extensive renovations and rear additions to the building. The new addition at the back contained a large apartment for he and his wife, Jean (White) Harding, and their family. This is the time that the roof line was altered and Dr. Harding placed the lettering on the front which states "1904 - HARDING BLOCK". Many people have been erroneously led to believe that this indicates the original date of construction.

On the ground floor, the drug business was taken over by pharmacist Victor F. Kincaid (1876-1948) whose drug store continued here for many years, moving later to the location vacated by the RHODES GROCERY at 41 King. Baird Bros. dry goods store was located in the corner store for a time. The architect, Benjamin Dillon, had his design office upstairs for a number of years. By 1913 the corner location at 45 King was taken over by the METROPOLITAN BANK, followed by the BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, and they continued here for almost 50 years.

There was a serious fire in the rear addition on February 8, 1916, after which much rebuilding was required. Dr. Harding died in 1927 and his wife Jean in 1947. The Jones-Harding Building passed to their son, Thomas E.W. Harding, who also passed away, and his estate sold the building to Alex and Harold Swan in 1952 who held on to it for only three years.

In the photograph shown below, 41 King was occupied by CARRICK'S ENGLISH CHINA SHOP, run by Ross S. Carrick for many years. Mervin Brownlee was the proprietor in later years. EATONS OF CANADA moved into the corner location in the 1960s, and was followed by HARRINGAY'S ladies clothing store run by Wendy and Bill Church.

After 1974, the owners of BROCKVILLE INVESTMENTS LTD., Leonard and Barbara Waddingham owned the building for a number of years.