

# **CARVED IN STONE – The Permanently Named Apartment Buildings of Hamilton**

**BY JOEL B. KERR**

Part I



## INTRODUCTION

“Who the hell would care about a bunch of grubby old apartment buildings” my friend, Ted Arnold, said to me in 2008 when I first told him about the concept for this book. “Well”, I gulped – “I guess I do. If somebody went to the trouble of building these apartments and paying to have their names permanently engraved or embossed in the stone exteriors I think those that remain should be noted and described before they all disappear”. So 10 years later I started to seriously work on the book with Mr. Arnold as my spotter and BAB (Best Apartment Buddy).

In 1900 the population of Hamilton was about 51,000. By 1914 it had almost doubled to about 101,000. This was largely the result of the massive industrialization that took place in the City. Between 1898 and 1920 some of the industries that set up in Hamilton included Westinghouse (1898), Otis Elevator (1902) International Harvester (1902), American Can (1904), Frost Fence (1904), Stelco (1910), Dofasco (1912), National Steel Car (1912), Proctor and Gamble (1915), and Firestone (1918). All were major employers and their employees needed some place to live so as a result there was a huge demand for cheap apartments.

*Vernon's City Directory* published a list of all the named buildings in its 1921 edition. That year there were 74 named buildings in the City, although no one will ever know how many had carved in stone names. By 1925 the list had grown to 154 named buildings and by 1928 the total was 227. By 1939 there were 346 as the Depression ended and WWII began. Apparently in 1924 there was a record surge of 48 new apartment buildings. *Vernon's*, by the way, published annually from 1853 to 2013 and is an invaluable source of information about the people and businesses of Hamilton. The Hamilton Public Library is currently putting each addition online and they are a fantastic tool to research the past. You want to know where grandpa lived in 1925? *Vernon's* will probably tell you and also what his occupation was and who he was employed by.

Many of these buildings are now gone and it looks like others will soon follow as some that remain are vacant or burned out shells. If the LRT gets built that will likely have a huge impact on King Street, one of Hamilton's most important east-west roads. Some buildings have been converted to condos and appear to be in good repair while others are dingy flop houses. Having never set foot in a single apartment mentioned in this book (with one exception), I have no idea what they are like inside, except for the condos where virtual open houses give you some idea of what they are like today.

I am sure that there are lots of stories about events that occurred in these buildings like murders or the comings and goings of notable people like local celebrities and sports stars but these are likely all lost now in the haze of history. I am only able to report on what you see from

the street and what my crappy phone camera has recorded. If you want other (probably better) views of the buildings you only have to Google their street addresses to be taken directly to mobile shots from the street that were taken during the summer when things look better.

Knowing virtually nothing about architecture (one year of Art History at Queen's in 1977) I can only note what I found interesting about the exteriors and describe it with my limited vocabulary. I have tried to provide some commentary about these buildings such as the possible origins of their names and curiosities I noted which will hopefully engage your interest.

There is no particular rhyme or reason with respect to the format of this "book". I have started with the few named buildings on the Mountain only because that is where I have always lived. They are mostly newer structures and none too exciting. Moving in to the lower City I have described the buildings to the east of James Street first, then moved on to those in the west end of the City. Generally I have tried to organize the buildings so that if you wanted to walk or drive through the City you could find them as you travel in a particular direction. I have a nagging suspicion that I have missed some buildings which I would be happy to be told about. Some of the names have been removed or are obscured by new entrances or metal cladding. I have also broken my only rule that the name has to be carved in stone (CIS) by describing some buildings that are not CIS. I am also annoyed that some of the buildings that should be named are not, probably because of lack of imagination or the cost of a stone carver.

I would like to thank my wife Deb who encouraged me in my first foray into writing (other than 36 years of ghostwriting affidavits for Family Court clients) and my daughter, Kristen, who helped with some technical skills as I am a virtual dunce at the computer.

***Hamilton, Ontario 2019***

**HILL THE MOVER**  
 IF DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR HOUSE, PLACE YOUR GOODS IN OUR CARE FOR STORAGE. FIRE PROOF WAREHOUSE. PHONES Regent 8666 and 8661. 21 VINE STREET

**A. M. SOUTER & CO.**  
 91-93 KING ST. WEST

**FURNITURE, CARPETS, DRAPERIES and HOUSE FURNISHINGS**

966

VERNON'S DIRECTORY

**\*ANTI-FREEZE SOLUTIONS**

**COMMERCIAL OIL CO,** 420 Jackson west

**APARTMENT HOUSES**

Alexandra Apts, 785 King e  
 Alpheus Apts, 643 King e  
 Annesley Apts, 216 York  
 Asquith Apts, 91 Victoria av s  
 Astoria Apts, 467-471 King w  
 Balmoral Apts, 1034 Barton e  
 Belvidere Apts, 9 Holton av n  
 Blake Apts, Blake, near Maple  
 Carlton Apts, 23 Mary  
 Centennial Apts, 463 1/2 King e  
 Central Court Apts, 131 Main w  
 Charlton Apts, Charlton av, cor Bay s  
 Chedoke Apts, Bold, cor James  
 Clarkson Apts, 165 Bold  
 Commercial Apts, 41 Park n  
 Devonshire Apts, 8 1/2 John n  
 Dominion Apts, 9 Maenab s  
 Dundurn Apts, 68 1/2 York  
 Dunlop Apts, 22 Park s  
 Eastcourt Apts, 770 Main e  
 Eldonian Apts, Main e, cor Spring  
 Elite Apts, 220-22 Main e  
 Florence Apts, 14 Cedar av  
 Forest Apts, 6 Forest av  
 Gould Apts, 7 Robert  
 Green's Apts, 2 Catharine s  
 Greer Apts, 263 Hughson n  
 Hampton Court, 8-10 East av n  
 Herkimer Apts, Herkimer, cor Bay s  
 Hillsboro Apts, 142 Caroline s  
 Holden Apts, Barton e, cor John  
 Horning Apts, 64 Blake  
 Lyndhurst Apts, 514 King e  
 Lister Apts, 19 King William  
 McDougall Apts, 14 Maenab n  
 Marlborough Apts, 4 Tisdale s  
 Milne Apts, 108 Mary  
 Myles Apts, 283 King east and 123 1/2 James n  
 Noble Apts, King Wm, cor Ashley  
 Oakwood Apts, 137 Ferrie e  
 Oxford Apts, 80 Carriek av  
 Park Bldg, 481 King w  
 Pasadena Apts, 25-29 Bold  
 Plaza Apts, Main e, nr Sherman av  
 Regent Apts, 144-152 Locke s  
 Restholme Apts, 80 Duke  
 Rideau Apts, 10 Forest av  
 Roanok Apts, 752 Main e  
 Royal Apts, 79-87 James n  
 Royal Alexandra, 19 Bold  
 St Agnes Court, Park, cor Hunter  
 St Charles Court, 122 Charles  
 St Clair Apts, 439-445 King e  
 St Denys Apts, 270-280 King e  
 St Elol Apts, Main e, cor Sherman  
 St James Apts, 134 1/2 James s  
 St Mary's Court, Park, cor Hunter

St Sarah's Court, 120 Charles  
 Salisbury Apts, 121-123 Charles  
 Sherman Apts, Main e, cor Sherman  
 Sherwood Apts, 127 1/2 King w  
 Simcoe Apts, 268 King e  
 Stewart Apts, 65 Hughson s  
 Stratford Apts, 108 East av s  
 Strathcona Apts, 9-11 Sherman av s  
 Temair Apts, 549 Main e  
 Treble Apts, 86 John n  
 Verona Apts, 19-21 St Matthews av  
 Victoria Apts, 781 King e  
 Victoria Bldg, 462 King w  
 Wellington Apts, 322 King e  
 West Lawn Apts, 318 York  
 Windsor Apts, 24-26 John n  
 Woodlawr Apts, 161 Duke

**ARCHITECTS**

Armstrong, W D, 604 Spectator Bldg  
 Brown, W G, 7 Hughson s  
**CROCKFORD, HENRY F,** 269 Province av  
 Edwards, W A, 168 Main e  
 Evans, Geo T, 310 Clyde Block  
**FRYER & EVANS,** 38 Home Bank Bldg  
 Hutton, G J, 804 Bank of Ham Bldg  
 McPhie & Kelly, 701 Bank of Ham Bldg  
 Munro, Lawrence, 30 Main e  
 New, H H, 608 Spectator Bldg  
 Patterson, E B, 143 Wentworth n  
 Peene, A W, 107 Clyde Block  
**RASTRICK, F J, & SON,** 414 Lister Bldg (see advt side lines)  
**SCOTT & WARDELL,** 48 Sun Life Bldg  
**SECORD & MURTON,** 48 Home Bank Bldg  
 Somerville, W L, 608 Spectator Bldg  
**STEWART, J H,** Lister Bldg  
 Warren, F W, 56 Home Bank Bldg  
**WESTAWAY, W J, CO,** cor Main and Maenab  
**WITTON & WALSH,** 7 Hughson s

**\*ART DEALERS**

Central Art Studio, 195 Main e  
**CUNNINGHAM, A M,** 3 James n  
**THOMPSON'S ART and KODAK** Store, 458 Barton e

**\*ART GLASS WORKS**

**HAMILTON MIRROR PLATE CO,** Ltd, 77 Park n (see advt bottom lines)

**ARTIFICIAL LIMBS**

**DOMINION ARTIFICIAL LIMB CO,** Ltd, 259 College, Toronto

**United Motor Sales Co.** Distributors of  
 322 KING ST. EAST. Regent 8050. **MAXWELL and CHALMERS CARS.**

## **MOUNTAIN APARTMENTS:**

There are only a handful of named buildings on the Mountain probably because it was developed mostly after the era of carving names had ended. Most of the ones that are named are rather unimaginative and probably date from the late 40's or 1950's with one exception, the Highlands Apartments, at 534 Concession Street. That is where we will begin.

1. Highland Apartments – 534 Concession St.



This is a 2 storey building with commercial on the main floor and apartments up above. According to the book, *Concession Street: In Context* by Jerry Johansen, 1994, It has had commercial use since 1920 so it probably dates to around this era. The name is synonymous with Scotland and may relate to the fact that it is only a block from Chalmer's Presbyterian, my family church where I was both christened and married. There was a very heavy Scottish presence at Chalmer's. Of course, it was also on the highland of the Mountain. Artistic features would be the two small parapets on the roof and the large front windows which have been re-done. The current commercial tenants are a "Cheque and Cash" (which is at least spelled correctly) and some kind of a used stuff store. The yellow tiles above the commercial rentals are suggestive of a food store like a "Dominion" but according to Johansen there is no history of such use.

There are two other named apartments on Concession which do not have commercial space.

## 2. Valleyview Apartments – 385 Concession St.



Incongruously named as it does not overlook a valley, although some units look over the lower City. This is a fairly large building with four floors and no balconies. Note the two different shades of brick on the upper floors which may be its only architectural feature.

### 3. View Point Apts. – 611 Concession St.



Across the street from St. Stephen's on the Mount, Anglican Church, it probably dates to about the same era which has a cornerstone dated 1958. It is a very small apartment building with an enigmatic name. As it is neither on a point, nor does it have a view, perhaps it is named for those with strongly expressed opinions! I have no idea why there is metal cladding on the top floor.

#### 4. Nadas Apts. – 5 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street



This sturdy looking building sits at the corner of East 13<sup>th</sup> and Concession and consists of two stories with a main floor parking garage. It has 6 or 7 units and curiously, awnings over some front windows. A name search reveals only a folk/rock group from Iowa formed in 1995. Probably not related. Note the glass blocks in the stairwell and in the basement.

The other named apartments on the Mountain are between Concession Street and the Mountain Brow. They are:

5. Windsor Court Apts. A – 196 Mountain Brow



**6. Windsor Court Apts. B – 6 Summit Drive**



These appear to be identical 4 storey buildings without balconies and their only feature seems to be modestly ornate front doors with stacked stone and globe lights.

## 7. Mt. Drive Apartments – 8 East 36th



These are 6, 4 storey all residential buildings on Mountain Brow between Upper Sherman and Upper Gage. Having no balconies these bland buildings appear to be identical and all have fantastic views of the lower City, if you face north. Otherwise, you look at a good sized parking lot and some scuzzy townhouses on East 37<sup>th</sup>. High Rise condos anyone?

As far as I know these are the only CIS named buildings on the Mountain.

## **THE LOWER CITY**

The vast majority of the CIS buildings are in the lower city. Their age and diversity are quite remarkable and who knows how many others have been torn down over the years. The fact that there are so many surviving is a testament to their solid construction and that there still seems to be a market for generally small, old apartments.

For organizational purposes I will try to present them by neighbourhood so that if you wish to visit them in person you can fairly easily see them on foot or by car.

As far as I can tell there are no CIS buildings further east than Parkdale Avenue and at that, only one on Parkdale. As Parkdale was originally in Saltfleet Township they are not found in the earlier *Vernon Directories*.

**PARKDALE AVENUE:**

**8. Maliski Apartments – 10-16 Parkdale N.**



This is a two storey commercial/residential building. The name is in a recessed area near the roof. The commercial space is currently home to “Godly Generation Covenant Church” which has a brightly coloured sign. The name Maliski has no apparent Hamilton reference but apparently it is US military slang for a “general asshole”, who, if he gets the chance, “ will screw you over and leave you in the desert.”

MALISK  
1976

# Godly Generation Covenant Church

## Deliverance and Healing Ministry

Contact Info. 905.581.2698

godlygenerationchurch@gmail.com

16

**Hours of Worship**  
Thursday Morning Service  
8:30 am - 10:30 am  
  
Sunday Service  
10:30 am - 1:00 pm  
  
**Contact Information:**  
Phone: 905-581-2698 or 905-581-2699  
Email: [godlygenerationchurch@gmail.com](mailto:godlygenerationchurch@gmail.com)  
 Pastor Malisk's Church for Christ Ministries

**KENILWORTH AVE. N.**

**9. Kelmain - 19 Kenilworth N.**



Named for its location near the intersection of Kenilworth and Main Streets this undistinguished building is 2 storey commercial/residential structure. The ground floor is currently unoccupied and I'm not sure about the few apartments above. It appears to date sometime after 1928.

10. "1946" – 37 Kenilworth N.



This is a 2 storey comm./res building with the commercial unit being vacant. I only include this as it is one of a number of buildings that only have a date and not a name, even though some have an unmarked name plaque that was never carved either because the owner couldn't think of a name or couldn't afford a stone mason. I will not include any other unnamed but dated buildings because , well, they don't have a name.

**11. Chepstow – 212 Kenilworth N.**



This is a 2 storey comm./res building that seems to be in almost derelict condition. The main floor is occupied by Minnick Real Estate Services.

This building may be named for the ancient Welsh town on the River Wye which is home to 11<sup>th</sup> Century Chepstow Castle. It appears to have been built around 1925.

**12. Clovelly – 246 Kenilworth N.,**



This is a 2 storey building with 4 commercial units – all vacant. It’s a fairly decrepit building on a fairly decrepit street. “Clovelly” is a small beachside town in Devon, England. Apparently the town is renowned for being privately owned by only 3 families since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Maybe they could buy this place and fix it up.

## **BARTON STREET E.**

Barton Street is an old, largely commercial street in north Hamilton that runs for miles. It is ever glorious those days are long over although there are some attempts to bring it back to life.

It used to be home to many bars, strip joints and various ethnic neighbourhoods but is now a bit of a mash up of generally marginal establishments. Still home to the “Barton Street Jail” (but not the hanging tower that was torn down) it used to be the home of “Centre Mall” a charming mall from the 50’s that was Hamilton’s first. It is now torn down and has been repurposed as a horrible “big box” mall with uncertain prospects. You would think there would be more CIS buildings on Barton but as far as I can see there are only a few, or maybe only a few left.

### **13. Holden Apartments – 62 Barton St. E**



Built in 1913 this is a large 3 storey structure at the corner of Barton and John Streets. There are a couple of commercial units that are currently unoccupied. The centre units have balconies while the two end units do not. It has seen better days but as a seemingly well built complex it could be ripe for renewal as it is close to the trendy James Street. Probably named after the builder, Holden is an English name meaning “from the hollow in the valley”. It’s also the

Christian name of Holden Caulfield from “Catcher in the Rye” J. D. Salinger, 1951. According to *Vernon’s* there were 15 people named “Holden” living in Hamilton in 1913.

#### 14. Taylor Block – 310 Barton E



Built in 1922, this 3 storey building has 5 commercial units, all apparently in use! These include the “Stir it up Café”, the “1-876 Bar and Grill” (?) and Karmacann Consulting. Probably named after the owner/builder it is not in the *Vernon’s* that I have looked at, perhaps because it was mainly a business structure.

15. Colonial – 577 Barton E.,



3 storey with main floor commercial. This place has seen better days and may be beyond renewal. The only architectural note is the name which is embossed in a jaunty handwritten style which is betrayed by the dismal nature of the rest of the exterior. *Vernon's* lists a "Colonial Apts" at 274 Main St. W. which appears to no longer exist.

## 16. Perkins Block – 660 Barton St. E



Built in 1926 this 2 storey has commercial space on the main floor currently occupied by the *FLA Bar*. Some items of interest include that the name appears in the center, while “1926” appears on the Barton St. side and “AD” appears on the Kinrade Street side. I guess they thought we might be confused about AD or BC. Above the doors and on the roof are red tiles giving it a faintly oriental look while there are 3 parapets on the roof in a Turkish style. There are also some wooden decorative scrolls by the door that look Greek. Confusing. The building is named for, and presumably was the office, of Dr. Stan Perkins who was the club doctor for many Hamilton hockey and football teams of the 1920’s and 1930’s.

### 17. DIAMOND BLOCK -145 Gibson



Just north of Barton Street at the corner of Princess and Gibson Streets sits this 3 storey all residential building which suffered a major fire as a result of an arson in January of 2019, just before we found it. Looks like it may be capable of restoration by the work going on. Time will tell. In 1937 this place was the home of the Hamilton Armenian Club but it has been converted to flats.

## **OTTAWA STREET NORTH**

Ottawa Street is an old commercial district in Hamilton's east end which was known as the textile district but has seen a bit of revival as an antique and eating destination. Popular in the summer, there are still a lot of vacant storefronts and places that have come and gone. The few named CIS buildings are as follows:

18. Leander – 4 Ottawa St. N





A stylish 3 storey building fronting on Ottawa but also having an exposure on Main Street this large structure has main floor commercial. The name is carved above the door and it has some nice architectural touches such as the parapet above the restaurant and quite a bit of inlaid stone. My wife's grandmother lived here and I was in her apartment but I do not remember anything about it.

The name is from Greek Mythology and Leander (m) was the lover of Hero (f) who was noted to swim across the Straits of Dardanelles nightly to make love to his girlfriend. One night he almost drowned in a storm but was saved by Poseidon.

The Leander is also a rowing club on the Hamilton bayfront that dates from 1927, around the time this apartment complex was likely built.

19. Ulster – 112 Ottawa St. N.



This is a small, 3 storey all residential building with tiny front balconies. The name is from a Province in Ireland that consists of 9 counties – 6 of which are in Northern Ireland and the remaining 3 in the Republic of Ireland. That's my finger in the top left, not a UFO

20. Newmans – 279 Ottawa St. N.



Dating from the early 1920's this is a 2 storey comm./res building with a curiously asymmetrical roofline. With the name in the middle, there is a half-moon parapet on the south side with no matching parapet on the north side. The appearance of the building has been ruined by metal cladding installed on the commercial unit. There is no reference to Newmans (plural) so the origin of the name requires more research. Probably not a reference to Seinfeld's nemesis.

## **THE DELTA**

The Delta is an unusual street feature where two of Hamilton's most important east west roads cross over creating two triangular areas and lots of traffic confusion for the uninitiated. King Street and Main Street are the culprits and the area is a mix of commercial and retail with at least 11 named buildings within a 5 minute walk. If you park your car in the old "No Frills" parking lot on King you are at ground zero.

### **21. Pines – 19 Balmoral S.**

This street runs for a block between Main and King and has 3 similar, but not identical buildings which all appear to date from the late 1920's. Pines is closest to Main Street and appears to have been or is being renovated. A 3 storey all residential building it has replaced balcony railings and a ruined front entrance. Origin of the generic name is unknown.



22. Henley – 29 Balmoral S.



3 storey, all residential, note that the name is carved at the 2<sup>nd</sup> level rather than the other two on Balmoral that are carved at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. This is one of the subtle differences between these buildings. Likely named after the owner/builder, there are numerous places named Henley in the UK. There is also the Henley rowing regatta in St. Catharine's Ontario. According to the 1928 *Vernon's*, there was no one named Henley living in Hamilton. Garney Henley is my all time favourite Hamilton Tiger Cat.

**23. Somerset – 37 Balmoral S.**



Similar to the Henley, note that the balcony doors and windows are placed differently than “Pines”. “Henley” appears to have original wooden, ornate balcony railings which differ from the other two which appear to have been replaced by metal. Likely also a surname, Somerset is a county in south west England.

**24. Lascelles – 1394 King St. E**



**25. Clarendon – 1396 King St. E**

Built prior to 1925, this is one continuous building with two names. Note the Art Deco feature of the round light above the doors. Note also the ornamental balustrade on the roof with cross shape openings. Lascelles is a Norman French surname which means “the saddle”. Clarendon may also be a surname but there are numerous places in the world with this name. Specific reference to these buildings is unknown. 1925 *Vernon’s* says there was nobody named either Lascelles or Clarendon living in Hamilton.

26. Victory – 1424-1430 King St. E.





Again, 1 building with two entrances, these have the same name of unknown reference.

You will note that they are built of yellow brick which is fairly rare in Hamilton and that there are several Art Deco stylings, such as the scroll line above the windows and the terraced stone above the vertical names. Would look great with a sandblasting! This building doesn't show up in Vernon's until 1943 which suggest that it was built fairly early in WWII. The name seems a little optimistic as the outcome of the War was anything but certain by that date.

## 27. Georgian – 1544 King St. E.



Crossing over Ottawa Street, these are 3 joined but separately entered building that form a “u” with a small central courtyard. The name is carved in script and the building appears to be in good repair. The origin of the name is not known but Georgian was a style of English architecture that prevailed from 1714 to 1830 with several subsequent revivals. Named for the first 4 monarchs of the House of Hanover, being Georges I- IV, the style is noted for its symmetry and proportion and a lack of ornamentation.

**28. The Renfrew – 1146 – 1160 Main St. E**



At the north east corner of Main and Balmoral this somewhat ostentatiously named 2 storey structure has a restaurant on the main floor and residential units above. You will note that while there are 3 places for nameplates only the Main Street one is carved. The origin of the name is unknown as is the date of this building. There were also 2 other buildings named *Renfrew Apartments* on Emerald Street and Victoria Avenue. Must have been confusing.

The restaurant used to be known as the Delta Bright Spot and dates from 1932 making it possibly the oldest restaurant in the City. It is presently known as Breezy Corners but the old Bright Spot sign remains, albeit altered.

## 29. Smith Building – 1135 Main St. E.

This 3 storey comm./res building is vacant or bombed out. The name is likely that of owner/builder. Notable for the fact that it appears to be completely original including the 2 iron bars above the 2nd floor which probably run through to the back to enhance structural integrity.



### 30. Deltonia Building – The Delta, Main St. E.



This large structure with the oversize name once housed the Delta Theatre, somewhere inside. The Delta had entrances on both King and Main Street and had 972 seats. Its last incarnation was as the ignominious “Starvin Marvin’s Burlesque Parlour”.

It now appears to be pretty run down and small, ugly flats have been created on the main floor. This place looks like an amalgam of depressing and ominous. Dates back to before 1925 but after 1921.



### 31. Delta Block – The Delta, Main and King Streets.



This triangular shaped building has residences above and a large “Pizza Pizza” below. With a vertical name right at the Delta and painted white brick it can be hard to find the name. You will note that next door on both King and Main is a derelict old bank building with numerous architectural details. Sad to see, but hopefully someone can see a use for what I think was a Royal Bank.

**32. Glenora Block – Delta, 1081 Main E.**



3 storey, all residential, lacking in details but appears to be occupied. Possibly pre-dating the other Delta buildings, the name has no known significance but is a common place name including the Glenora Ferry which is about a 1 minute ferry ride in Prince Edward County, near Picton. The McDonald's 24 hour drive through must be annoying.

**33. Erin – 1265 King St. E.**



This 3 storey, all residential building probably dates from the late 20's. It has front balconies and round concrete finials on the roof. "Erin" is the romantic name for Ireland such as is "Erin go bragh" which means "Ireland forever", a phrase dating from the 1798 revolution. It is also a given name used by both sexes but primarily female.

34. Kinclair – 1263 King St. E.



This 3 storey all residential building is probably the same age as its next door neighbor, “Erin”. Note the all brick balustrade on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor balconies and the fact that its name plaque is above the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The origin of the name is obscure.

**35. Gibson Apts – 17 Gage Ave. S,**

Not in the Delta but nearby, this seems to be the only named building on Gage. A 3 storey all residential building this seems to date from the 30's or 40's by reason of its lack of any ornamentation. Notable only for the fact that the front door is on the far south side of the building and the name is directly above the door. Origin of the name is unknown although Gibson was a well known family in Hamilton including Senator William Gibson.



### 36. Avis – 959 Main St. E



This 3 storey, all residential building is Latin for “bird”. Likely built in the late 1920’s, it is similar to its next door neighbor, “Gainsboro”, such as each has round concrete finials on the roof. However, there are subtle differences such as the inlaid concrete squares and diamonds. Probably the best feature of these buildings is that they are across the street from the excellent “Connaught Fish & Chips”.

37. Gainsboro – 957 Main St. E.



The origin of the name is unknown. There are several towns in England so named and there is also the famous English artist, Thomas Gainsborough 1727- 1788. You will note the different spelling as the building ends "oro". In 1932, *Vernon's* records nobody in Hamilton with this name, regardless of how you spell it.

**38. Lucerne – 100 Connaught S.**



Likely slightly newer than the “Wolsey” which sits directly across the street at the corner of Main St. this bland building is probably Depression era. Note that the stone lintels above the windows have been removed and bricked up for unknown reasons. “Lucerne” is a City, a Canton and a lake in central Switzerland known best for its wooden, covered Chapel Bridge. (I saw this at age 14 in 1971 while on a hockey tour. They served us beer at lunch!)

**39. Wolsey – 97 – 101 Connaught St. S.**



Not quite as austere as the “Lucerne” across the street it is dated 1930, early in the Depression.

Cardinal Wolsey, 1473 – 1530, was the Catholic Chancellor of England. This is a rather provocative name for a building on Connaught Street, which was named for a Province of Ireland.

## **KING STREET EAST**

At the Delta, King Street and Main Street cross over and proceeding west, King Street becomes a 4 lane, one way road leading downtown to James Street where it becomes King West. About a 5 km drive, there are numerous named buildings in various states of repair. King Street itself is a mash up of commercial space, some of which are open and others are vacant and sometimes derelict. If Hamilton builds its LRT it will go down the middle of King Street and forever change the makeup of the street and the surrounding neighborhoods. This could be good for these older buildings, most of which date from the 1920's and 1930's, as there may be a new demand for accommodations on a major transit route. On the other hand, some of these buildings may not survive the long LRT construction process or they may be deemed beyond hope. Time will tell.

If the LRT is not built things will likely stay much as they are now with some buildings thriving and others declining. There doesn't appear to be much of an urban renewal happening on this stretch of King East. Parking, or rather the lack thereof, will always be a problem.

#### 40. Julia Apts – 1134 King St. E



Although this 3 storey, all residential building has a King St. address , the entrance and most of the frontage is on the side street. It is curiously dated "19-46" so it is just post WWII. It has few architectural details but is slightly better looking than the bland depression era buildings.

#### 41. Elizabeth – 1 Balsam S.



At the south east corner of King and Balsam this 3 storey all residential building is notable because it has some original garages to the south which was pretty swish for the time (1940's?).

Design details include numerous square stone inlays on its face and patterned brick near the roof. It also appears to have original windows including the centre windows that have four ventilation holes in them. These would let in or out some air and could be closed by a wooden slat. My bedroom window had these in my parents 1947 house on Upper Gage.

The origin of the name is unclear but may be for Queen Elizabeth II who was born in 1926 and was crowned in 1952. Good snowmen!

#### 42. Jubilee – 2 Balsam St. S



This 3 storey all residential building has lots of action including balconies, a central parapet, round concrete finials on the roof and arched stone lintels above the lower windows. It also appears to have a bit of a roof balustrade.

If **Elizabeth**, across the street, is named for our current monarch, **Jubilee** continues the royal theme as a “jubilee” is the anniversary of an event such as a coronation. Queen Victoria’s diamond jubilee (60 years) was in 1897 and King George VI’s silver jubilee (25 years) was in 1935. This place was built some time after 1928.

**43. Kingsdale – 1094 King St. E**



Continuing the royal theme this 3 storey, all residential building is rather plain except for the jagged inlaid stone around the doors. Kingsdale is a valley in Yorkshire.

#### 44. Brock Bldg – 949 King St. E



This 3 storey commercial/residential building appears to have converted the main floor to an extra residential unit. The only architectural detail to this small, nondescript building are the stone inlays above the windows,

The name “Brock” is ubiquitous in Ontario as Sir Isaac Brock (1769-1812) was a major general in the war of 1812 and is known as the saviour of Canada. He died in the battle of Queenston Heights. If this building is named in his honour it doesn’t do him justice. There is another building named “Brock”, which is at 92 Sanford Ave. S. It isn’t much better.

45. Arva – 916 King St. E



This 3 storey, all residential building is notable for its balconies, its central parapet and the ornately carved name. There is no known reference for the name which appears to be a word of Hungarian or Romanian origin.

**46. Fairholt – 1-5 Fairholt Ave.,**



Presumably named for the fact that it is at the corner of King and Fairholt streets this is a 3 storey, all residential building with balconies. Having 2 entrances, the name is carved on both central parapets.

**47. Belvidere – 831 King St. E.**



An unremarkable, depression era building is a 3 storey comm./res with all commercial space vacant. The name is latin for “beautiful sight” (not so much in this case). It is also commonly spelled “Belvedere”.

48. Alexandra – 785 King E.

49. Victoria – 781 King E.



This is one structure with 2 entrances and separate names. A beautiful building, it is all stone at ground level and has balconies with arched roofs. Victoria is best known as Queen Victoria. Her first given name was “Alexandrina” which may or may not account for the other name. I believe the building was the site of a grizzly murder a number of years ago to which I can find no reference.

**50. Avon – 658 King St. E**



The commercial main floor is vacant. Above the top floor windows there appear to be some art deco touches. The name derives from the Celtic word for rivers, such as Stratford upon Avon, where Shakespeare was born. The name has been used since 1886 for the beauty products company. Picture taken by Ted Arnold. That's me to the right by my truck.



51. The Alpheus – 643 King E.



This run down, 3 storey comm./res building is all vacant on the main floor. It has a nice embossed nameplate and details such as arched windows above the centre and keystones above the side windows. It may once have had balconies but if so they have been closed in and covered in metal cladding which greatly detracts from the overall appearance of the building. The name “Alpheus” is from Greek mythology representing a minor river god.

52. Hatch – 573 King St. E.



A 2 storey comm./res building all of the commercial units are vacant. The red brick has been painted over white making it hard to read the curious name. Depressing, ain't it.



53. Lyndhurst – 514 King St. E.,



A 3 storey, all residential building it is notable for the high Doric columns on either side and its rather perambulating exterior. The name is of uncertain origin but is the name of many towns throughout the English world. Dates from prior to 1921.

54. Centennial – 467 King St. E.



Some of the main floor commercial units are leased including “Reptile World” (not sure I’d want to live above it). Despite its grandly named central parapet this place has seen better days. “Centennial”, of course is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of something but I have no idea why this name is affixed to this sad place which predates 1921.

55. St. Clare – 445 King St. E



A 2 storey comm./res building this place has the singular distinction on King St of having full occupancy of all commercial space. St. Clare was a female Italian saint who lived from 1194 – 1253. According to John Delaney, *Dictionary of Saints 1980*, she is the patroness of television (?). Her last words are reputed to have been “Blessed be you, O God, for having created me”.

This building is similar in shape and size and age to **Centennial** including the prominent named parapet and the dentils beneath the cornice roof.



## **MOVING WEST TOWARDS DOWNTOWN**

I will get back to the cluster of apartments on Main St. E shortly but first there are a number of buildings on north-south streets such as Sherman, Sanford, Wentworth and Victoria. There are also some buildings on east-west streets such as Stinson and Maplewood. Not being in commercial districts, these are all residential buildings and, with a few exceptions, are generally in better condition than those on King E.

56. MARINA – 11 Sherman Ave. S.



This 3 storey building appears pretty well maintained and was presumably built sometime in the 1930's. I can find no reference for the name except that it is a Slavic word meaning "peace" in addition to a place to tie up boats. Another building where the name is vertical, it seems to have some Art Deco touches. It has a quiet elegance.

57. WINTHROP – 104 Sherman Ave. S.



This 4 storey building dates prior to 1925 and is in good shape. Unfortunately, a canopy above the front door obscures the 4 Greek columns on the porch and changes the name to "St. Clair Blvd. Suites." This defies logic as the building has a perfectly good name and is just in the area of St. Clair Blvd. which is one of East Hamilton's more elegant addresses. It is the name of various places including Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, founded in 1886. According to the 1921 Vernon's there was nobody in Hamilton with that name.

**58. ALBERTONIA – 41-43 Albert St.**



This 3 storey structure dates from before 1928 and has large balconies, the top storey of which are supported by wooden columns to some ornamental effect. However, the name is **painted** above the two doors! So how does this qualify as “Carved in Stone”? Well, if you go around the corner on Maplewood you will note an attached entry over which is inscribed “Entrance – Bowling Alley” which is carved in stone! Presumably in the basement, I have no idea how long it operated for but it must have caused some consternation to the tenants as bowling alleys are noisy. When I was there in February of 2019 there was a municipal notice on the door of an application to convert it to a residential unit.



**59. BROCK – 92 Sanford Ave. S.**

A 3 storey building with balconies, it appears to have original windows and doors and was built prior to 1928 but after 1921. It shares a name with a similar age building at 949 King St. E. which seems curious. I mean, isn't the point of naming a building to make it distinctive. Yet there are a few other examples of Hamilton buildings sharing a name.



**60. OWEN CLARE – 65-71 Sanford Ave. S.**

This building has 2 parapets with the name inscribed and a central parapet with the date, 1925. It has a solid balustrade along the roof and lots of stone inlays. Unfortunately, it is at the corner of Sanford and Main which has been the scene of several major crimes over the last few years. The name has no known reference although according to the 1921 Vernon's there was only 1 person in Hamilton with the name Clare. That was widower Elizabeth Clare who lived at **150 Sanford S.** A coincidence, who knows.



**61. TUDOR HALL – 91 Wentworth St. S.**



Once an attractive building, it is now totally vacant and boarded up presumably as a result of a fire or some other catastrophe. It sits next to a private residence that is equally deserted that has a turret with a large dome. There is also an ornamental iron fence that is ripe for re-purposing. Calling Toronto developers.... The House of Tudor were English monarchs who reigned from 1485 to 1605 and included Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Tudor Hall was a girl's boarding school in England that was founded in 1850. I can't help but speculate if there was some connection with the magnificent derelict house at 89 Wentworth S. Writing in the *Spectator* on September 18, 2017, Paul Wilson noted that the buildings were co-

owned and that the owner had \$3 million earmarked for their restoration with construction to begin in the spring of 2018. Hasn't happened yet.



62. DELAWARE – 112 Wentworth St. S.,



This 3 storey building is near the corner of Delaware and Wentworth streets, hence the name. With very small balconies, this building was built sometime after 1928. Note the partial balustrade on the roof-top parapet with the zig-zag cutout which is common in these older Hamilton buildings.

63. De GAULLE – 216 Stinson Ave.



This yellow brick building with the vertical name is like the "Victory" on King St. E and was built before 1941 when it first appears in Vernon's. It has some of the Art Deco touches like "Victory" but the curious thing is the origin of the name. Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970) was a French General from WWII who was famous for resisting the Nazi invasion and for not collaborating with them after the German victory. After the war he became President of France and basically got thrown out of Canada in 1967 following his speech in Montreal when he announced "Viva Quebec – Viva Quebec libre" fanning the separatists flames of the day. Not really famous until WWII it is unclear why his name adorns a modest apartment building in Hamilton that appears to predate the war or to have been built early in the war. One of his famous quotes was "The better I get to know men the more I find myself loving dogs."

**64. RICHMOND -300-302 Victoria Ave. N.,**



Directly across from Hamilton General Hospital, this 2 storey building was built between after 1928 and has 2 entrances that are reached by concrete staircases that appear pretty new and doors covered by ornamental overhangs. "Richmond" is a common name throughout the English speaking world. According to 1921 Vernon's there were more than 10 people in Hamilton with that surname, including a Dr. Lee Richmond, physician and surgeon.

**65. EMPRESS – 44 Victoria St. S.**



This pre-1925 building sits at the bottom of the Claremont access, just before Main St. The name is above the door and it has few features other than a central parapet and balconies on the sides. An “Empress” is a female imperial monarch or the wife of an emperor. This is a grand name for a never grand building. Probably best known today for pounding traffic and screeching brakes.

66. BELMONT – 35-37 West Ave. N.



This smallish building has 2 named, identical entrances. Dating prior to 1921 it has some decorative stone inlays and a curious green cladding near the roof. “Belmont” is French for “good mountain” and is a common surname. The Belmont Stakes are run at the Belmont Race Track in Elmont N.Y. each year in early June. The 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of the U.S. Triple Crown, this year will be the 151<sup>st</sup> running. It is a 1.5 mile track and the course record is still held by *Secretariat*, from 1973.