

# Tweed & Area Heritage Centre



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Registered Charity Number: 134330810 RR 0001

## OPERA HOUSE

This was situated at the south-west corner of Store St. (Victoria St. N.) and Spring St. W. Joseph Rath, Sr., (1823-1908) had purchased in 1861 (Dec. 26) from James Jamieson Lot 90, upon which he built a wee house as a rental property. 1891 Apr. 10, merchant George W. Detlor purchased the property, where he erected the impressive brick structure seen today with its 1893 addition. The ground floor was a store, while the second floor, Detlor's Hall/ Detlor's Opera House served as a centre for local entertainment. James Murphy (1869-1932) bought the property in 1901 (May 24), using the ground floor for a store and the Post Office, and continuing the upper level as Murphy's Opera House. An advertisement in The Tweed News in 1921 referred to it as the "Tweed Opera House", "formerly Murphy's Opera House", where Mac-Ray Theatres showed pictures on Monday and Friday. 1924 Apr. 23, James Quinn purchased the property, renting the first floor to a variety of tenants in the two stores, and operating above the "Quinn's Opera House", where the community enjoyed dances, public meetings, plays, receptions, and other entertainments. The next owner, Stan Quinn, purchased the property 1938 Sept. 23, opening on the ground floor the Victoria Theatre, which continued until 1963. Since 1966 it has housed the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce/ CIBC. For some years, the former Opera House was the Kinsmen Hall, for their club's purposes and for rental.

(The "Auditorium" at the north-west corner of Jamieson St. E. at Colborne St., erected in 1913 by the Loyal Orange Lodge, hosted the larger touring entertainments, as the one door on the east allowed the wagons transporting their props from the railway cars to move them directly onto the stage.)



PENCIL SKETCH OF TWEED BEFORE THE ADVENT OF RAILWAYS

*i.e. pre 1884*

*\* Joseph Rash, Sr., home, south-west corner of Store St. (Victoria St. N.) & Spring St. St.*



JAMES MURPHY BLOCK,  
CONTAINING GENERAL STORE, POST OFFICE AND OPERA HOUSE

1907

Matchett's "The People's Store" / "Weed's Big Store"

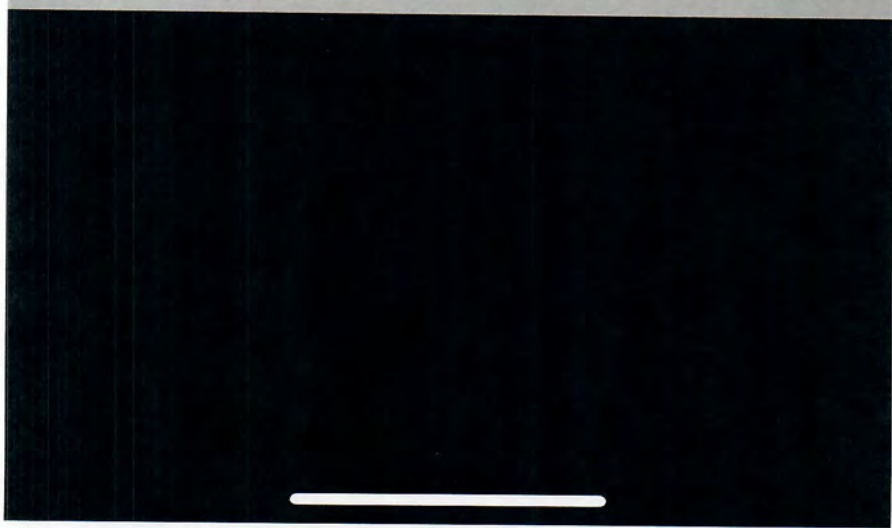
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*Victoria Theatre (1937 - ca 1963)*



1966 Jan 08 →





*Detlor Opera House 256 V. St. N. - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 2017*

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