

ARCHER BLOCK

4219-4221 PETROLIA LINE



Year Current Building Erected:
1887

In the 1880s, the Town of Petrolia voted in a by-law that all new buildings were to be made of brick. Shortly afterwards, a significant section of the downtown core was engulfed in flames, destroying Canneff's jewellery shop, Archer's Dry Goods, Alley's Dry Goods, Marshall's meat market and Watson's tinsmith store. Under normal circumstances this would be considered a disaster. Instead the town celebrated. The town residents liked the brick look, and they were excited that all these buildings would have to be re-constructed in brick.

A PONTIAC DEALERSHIP WAS ONCE IN ARCHER BLOCK.



In July of 1887, J&J Kerr Co. began rebuilding the Archer Block, and Archer himself moved back into his premises in December of that year. In the 1890s and well into the twentieth century, the business section between Tank and Greenfield streets remained the busiest part of town, chiefly because the major stores were here. Webb's dry goods in the Archer Block and Scarsbrooks in Lancey's Block were the biggest shopping centers in town.

Current location occupant(s):

Family Discount Depot

Original building occupant(s):

Archer's Dry Goods, Cameron's Store

Original location occupant(s):

Archer's Dry Goods

Previous occupants:

**Simpson's Sears, Chainway, Fletcher's Used Furniture,
Zimmerman's Upholstery, Goldcoast,
Petrolia Source For Sports,
Manley's Stationery**



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