



Do you know this building?

Do you know the history of this building? If the answer is no, you are not alone. Not too many do.

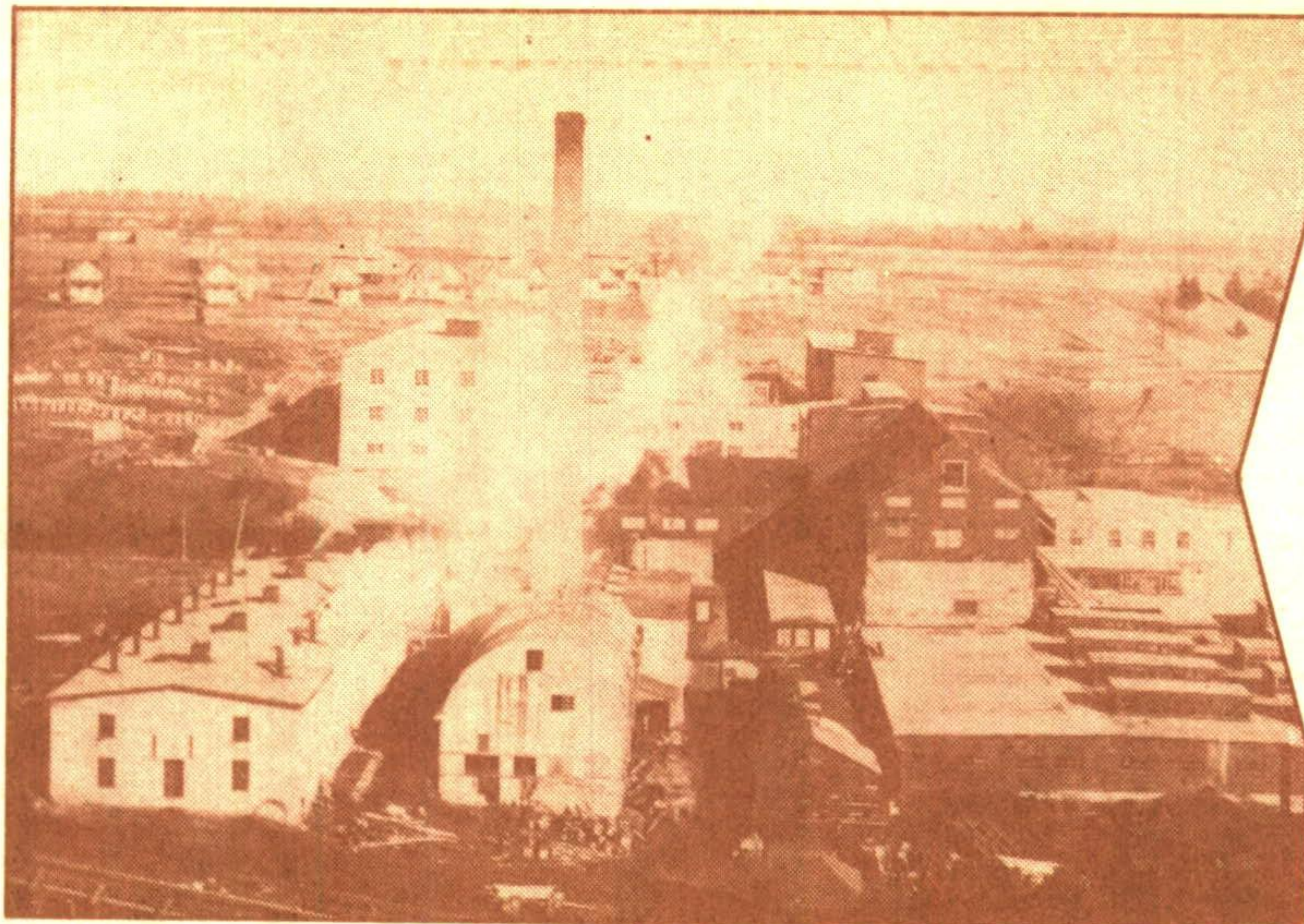
This is the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Salmonville and now the Community Centre of Terra Cotta built in 1862.

The first church service was held in early 1863, becoming the United Church of Canada in 1925. Then in 1950 it was given to Terra Cotta for a community centre. According to the written minutes at a public meeting, the trustees of the church were elected as trustees of the community centre and is still operating as a community centre by a group of dedicated volunteers.

This year, we are planning some 130th anniversary events and need the help of any interested parties, history buffs and historians, etc. If you have pictures, newspaper clippings, photographs or memories about the church or community centre in Tucker's Mill, Plewes' Mill, Salmonville or Terra Cotta (all the same place), we would be very grateful if you would loan them to us. They will be returned to you.

Write to Terra Cotta History Committee, Box 590, Terra Cotta, Ontario, L0P 1N0 or call in the evenings A.J. Von Zuben, 416-877-3117, RR1 Terra Cotta, L0P 1N0.

P.S. Did you grow up in Terra Cotta? Why not come back and share your memories and help us celebrate our 130th birthday.

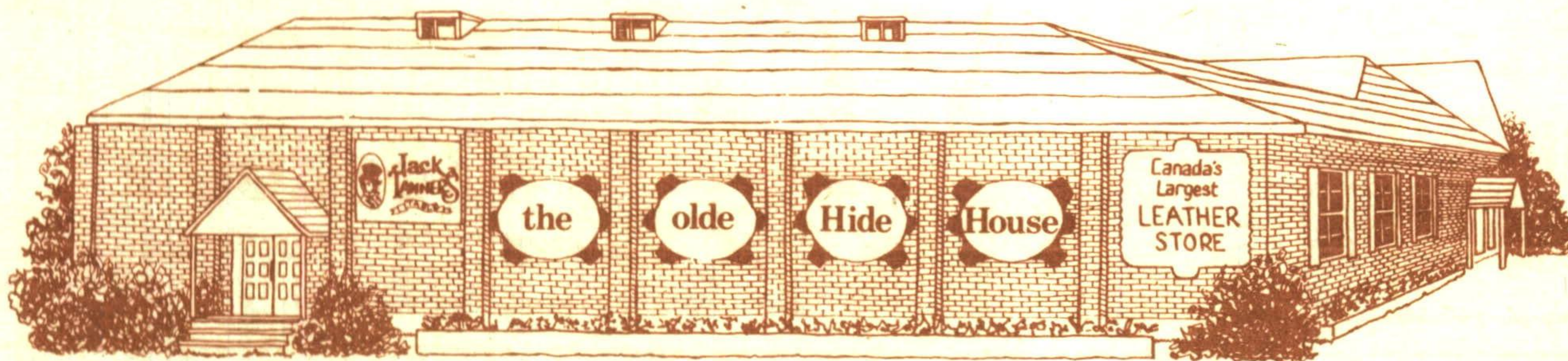


Acton Train Station - The first Grand Trunk train steamed through Acton in 1856. Declining passenger rail service saw the station closed in Nov. 1967 and it was subsequently demolished. The station was situated beside the Beardmore tannery warehouse. The "olde Hide House" roof is visible behind the Station.



Beardmore & Co. Limited, Acton Tannery. Purchased by G.L. Beardmore & Co. in 1865, there has been a tannery on this site since approx. 1840. The Beardmore company continued to operate up to 1944 when it was sold to Canada Packers who carried on business under the Beardmore name up to Sept. 1986. On the Crescent, visible in the background, are some of the employee houses put up by Beardmore.

the olde Hide House...Canada's largest leather store



Built in 1899

Welcome to the olde Hide House, Canada's largest and most popular leather store. When you first arrive you may be amazed at the immense size of this brick and beam tannery warehouse. In fact, including the galleries and our restaurant, Jack Tanner's Table, the floor space is just over one acre. It took half a million bricks to construct the walls back in 1899 - that's enough to build 30, three bedroom bungalows today. And there is enough wood in the roof to build 10 complete frame houses!

Although built in 1899, the roots of the olde Hide House go back nearly a century and a half - to 1856, when George L. Beardmore came to Acton. After operating a tannery in the Hamilton area, he came to Acton to revitalize an old tannery and take advantage of the abundance of trees along the Niagra Escarpment. Tannin from the bark of trees was used in the tanning process. During the 1880's the firm expanded its landholdings and built a tanning complex which covered nearly a million square feet. It became the largest tanning complex in the British Empire.

In 1899, Beardmore & Company built a large brick warehouse at 49 Eastern Avenue, next to the railway line. Unprocessed hides were brought in by rail and stored here, waiting transport by horsedrawn wagons to the tannery. Processed leather was then returned and stored in the building awaiting rail shipment to the firm's customers.

In 1933, a rail spur to the tannery made the "Hide House" building obsolete. Amos Mason purchased the building for \$1,500 and operated the Mason Knitting Company until 1969. In that year, Frank Heller and Company bought the building and converted it for the production of split leather. In 1980, Frank Heller and Company, (a split leather finishing plant) now Eagle Dominion, relocated to more extensive quarters here in Acton.

In 1980, a new company was formed to redevelop the "Hide House" and an extensive renovation program commenced that year.

The olde Hide House officially opened on November 14, 1980 and Jack Tanner's Table was introduced the following year. Continued renovations and growth have made the olde Hide House the leading leather store in Canada. Today, the olde Hide House, its affiliates and companion stores, Leathertown West Wear-House and the Flight-Line Aviation Leather Store, serve to further Acton's traditional role and reputation as Canada's "Leathertown".

Under one roof, at the olde Hide House, you can discover over 10,000 fine leather garments and accessories for men, women and children in leather, suede and sheepskin.

ALSO FEATURING...

THE LEATHER GIFT SHOP is a haven for visitors searching for something special. You'll find everything from delicate leather jewellery to fine leather briefcases.

THE GENERAL STORE provides a place to relax, enjoy a coffee and browse for books, crafts and post cards.

WOOLENS, synonymous with warmth, present a world class collection of famous names in sweaters, cardigans, coats and skirts.

THE LUGGAGE LOFT makes travelling a delight with leather luggage in the latest designer styles and colours.

THE LIFETIME FURNITURE GALLERY can outfit your home or office with finest in leather furniture or traditional hand crafted wood furnishings.

JACK TANNER'S TABLE will cater to your dining desires in the cosy surroundings of our first class country restaurant. Enjoy continental cuisine and daily specials skillfully prepared by our 'Cordon Bleu' chef, James DiRenzo. L.L.B.O. Reservations are recommended.

...All under one roof!

It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

49 EASTERN AVE.

AMEX, VISA, MASTERCARD

OPEN 7 DAYS/WEEK

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