

## The First Bank

In 1890, in his private home, Pierre Abondius Barrette opened the first bank counter of the Merchants Bank of Canada. All transactions took place at his residence, but the administration was done in the Saint-Jérôme branch.

From January 9, 1907, the Merchants Bank of Canada became the Bank of Montreal, which continued to serve its customers in the same location.

In 1912, because the premises were too small, P.A. Barrette built a new, two-storey, red brick building beside his residence, and in it installed the branch – which was now autonomous – of the bank. Mr. Barrette was named manager, a position he held until his retirement in 1925.

This building was enlarged in 1930, 1952 and 1973. In 1990, in view of the age of the building, major work was done and it was restored to the appearance it had in its early days. This glimpse of history shows the interest that the bank directors had in the environment in which they evolved. Not to mention the fact that the renovation was an important part of the revitalization of rue Ouimet (now rue de Saint-Jovite), undertaken by the municipality. The interior was renovated and improved in 1997 to make it more functional and user-friendly.

The mural on the facade, painted by artist Yan-Éric Côté in 2007, underlines the building's one hundred years of existence and the involvement of this institution in the transformation of the little village of yesteryear into the town of today.

Research and writing: Société du Patrimoine SOPABIC, heritage society  
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Legend: The Bank of Montreal in 1930.

Source: collection of the société du Patrimoine SOPABIC