



YWCA Hamilton's First Home

By April 15 1889, the former house of Dr. Henwood, located at 17 Main Street West, had been rented for the purpose of establishing a boarding house for women. Mrs. James (John) G. Malloch paid the entire years' rent of \$400.

By May 1st the building would accommodate 8 boarders. It was decided that the rooms would be open during the day and evening. Plans included a circulating library, which all members would be free to use. (200 volumes were collected and added to the collection) Programs were organized for the evening entertainment of those who visited the establishment.



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17 Main Street West

Boarding House Committee Year End Report of the YWCA:

Doors Open May 1st, first Boarder arrives May 3rd, "Since then forty-four persons have been entertained, twenty two of whom have spent one week or more in the house; eighteen were transients, and four day boarders." Although the residence for women was not established as a charitable institution, its organizers did, however, at times accept women who were unable to afford the boarding fee. Regular boarders were expected to pay \$3 per week for a single room and \$2.50 a week for a two-person room. The report for the first year's work continued to emphasize the need for appropriate and affordable housing for single women living and working in Hamilton.