MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 26 Ontario Street

Known as: Walker Building

Architectural Style: Georgian

Date Built: Circa 1855

Date Designated: November 2, 1981 to By -Law No. 70/81, SCHEDULE B

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT 71 STEWART PLAN



Architectural Description

The three and a half storey older brick section on Ontario Street is constructed of brick laid in common bond. It is rectangular in plan and is the end building of a row of non-related structures. The roof is of medium pitch and is parapet gabled. The roof trim, eaves type, is a simple frieze. There are four bays on the second and third storeys, which are six over six sash with flat arches of brick and wooden lugsills. The first storey has undergone extensive alteration but a photograph of 1882, in the Cal Clayton collection, shows two doorways and three nine-paned windows. A later photograph reveals that the doorway on the right has been bricked-in. The above described brick section of the Walker Building was the original building on this site along with a frame building to the rear no longer there. The frame building was replaced by another three and a half storey brick wing built by Walker in 1869. (1 Maitland Street).

Historical Abstract

In 1851, Cornelius Quinlan (1822-1883), a tinsmith and coppersmith merchant on Walton Street, bought this section of Lot 71. That same year Ontario Street was opened and the section of Maitland Street that ran through the site of the present building was closed, so Quinlan purchased that triangular section also. It is presumed that Quinlan constructed this brick block by mid-century.

In 1865, John Walker, a Port Hope cabinetmaker, bought the lot and brick building thereon from Quinlan, although he had been in the cabinet making and upholstery business at premises from Quinlan. Walker (1824-1894) was originally from Ireland. In the spring of 1869, Walker added to the brick structure fronting on Ontario Street and replaced the frame building to the rear by building a three and a half storey brick wing, measuring twenty-three feet by forty-eight feet (1 Maitland Street). Mr. Walker's Ontario Street building and rear addition were used as a furniture showroom and funeral parlour and, by 1880; his cabinet-making factory was located in Brogdin's Lane.

As was common in the nineteenth century, the funerary business was combined with furniture or cabinet making. Funerals took place in private dwellings. Caskets were simple wooden affairs and a secondary business for furniture makers.

John Walker died in 1894, but the building remained in the Walker family until 1923 when it was sold to Gordon Jex, a Port Hope funeral director. The undertaking business was carried on under the name of "Walker and Jex" and later "Jex and Smith". The building was later conveyed as two separate properties. (26 Ontario Street & 1 Maitland Street.).

Historical Directory Ad



FURNITURE ! FURNITURE !

The undersigned having his New Factory in complete running order is now prepared to sell Furniture FOR CASH cheaper than ever before.

Job Turning & Scroll Sawing a Specialty. Work Warranted.

Metallic and Wooden COFFINS AND CASKETS.

SHROUDS, CRAPE, GLOVES And everything else required for FUNERALS.

THE UNDERTAKING DEPARTMENT

Contains all the above Funeral Furnishing at Low Rates. Parties wishing anything in my line will do well to give me a call, as I am bound NOT TO BE UNDERSOLD.

Ontario St., P. H. JOHN WALKER, Proprietor.



The Walker Building on the left with the sign for an undertaker and an indication of the appearance of the original shop front. The Midland railway travelled along Ontario Street. (Photo from East Durham Historical Society)



Architectural Detail

There are four bays on the second and third storeys, with windows that are six over six sash with flat arches of brick and wooden lugsills. The first storey has undergone extensive alteration but a photograph of 1882, in the Clayton Collection, shows two doorways and three nine-paned windows for the shop fronts.