MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 10-12 Queen Street

Known as: The British Hotel

Architectural Style: Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1845

Date Designated: October 23, 1989 to By-Law No. 91/89, SCHEDULE B-7

Lot Description: PLAN 33 PT LOT 10



Architectural Description

Known in the nineteenth century as the British Hotel, this three-storey brick building was constructed circa 1845. It measures twenty-four feet across the front by sixty-two feet deep. Across the rear of the building there is an eleven feet wide by three-storey high addition constructed circa 1920. The roof of the building is flat with a slight slope to the rear.

The front elevation of the building is three bays wide. The existing recessed shop front was installed circa 1930 by the Strong family. Prior to that time, two equally spaced brick columns came down to grade from the arches above, thereby creating a three bay open arcade two storeys high. Within the arcade there is a porch at the second floor level.

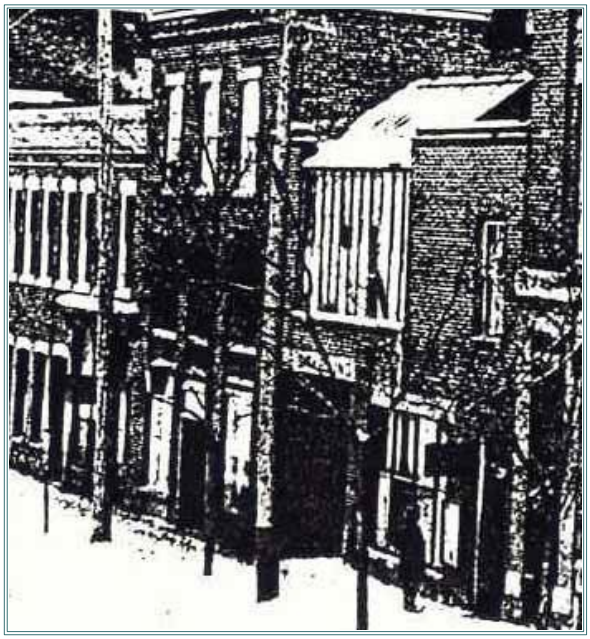
Originally there was a two-storey brick wall four feet behind the arcaded front where the actual windows and doors were located.

Historical Abstract

This hotel building is thought to be constructed circa 1845 contemporary with the construction of another nearby hotel, the North American Hotel on Walton Street (28-32 Walton Street). During Port Hope's significant growth period in the prosperous 1850's, a number of hotels, inns, saloons and livery stables were constructed to accommodate the increased number of travellers.

With the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway, and Port Hope Lindsay and Beaverton Railway in the 1850's, as well as travellers from the numerous lake steamers that visited Port Hope for day trips or en route to another destination, the need for hospitality services increased significantly. By 1857, there were thirteen hotels or inns listed in local business directories, some located on Mill, Walton and Queen Street. The British Hotel appears in the 1880 business directory with Lawrence Haw listed as the proprietor.

Archival Photo





Architectural Detail

The existing recessed shop front was installed circa 1930 by the Strong family. Prior to that time, two equally spaced brick columns came down to grade from the arches above.