MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 29-33 Walton Street

Known as: Gillett Paterson Block

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District - Neo-Classic

Date Built: Circa 1845

Date Designated: April 11, 1988 to By-Law No. 39/88, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: PLAN 14 PT LOT 1



Architectural Description

This early block, with its counterpart at the other end at Mill Street, sets the standard for Walton Street's early construction. It is a brick commercial building with residential and/or storage space above. The corner is rounded to Queen and Walton Streets, and the block stands three storeys high in two units facing Walton Street.

The roof is a low-pitched gable, parallel to the streets and forming a hip at the corner. A pilastered front of Greek Revival style is topped by a heavy wooden frieze and cornice. The frieze is pierced by stomachers, and the soffit contains mutules and guttae, characteristic of Greek Revival. There are six bays to the Walton Street facade, including one on the rounded corner, and six bays to the Queen Street facade. The windows on the second and third storeys are headed by a plain lintel and supported by lugsills on the third storey and a continuous sill, acting as a string course, on the second storey.

There has been considerable alteration to the ground floor, with infilling to create a banking establishment around 1870. Later changes to the bank front are seen in photographs from the Cal Clayton and Tom Long collections.

Historical Abstract

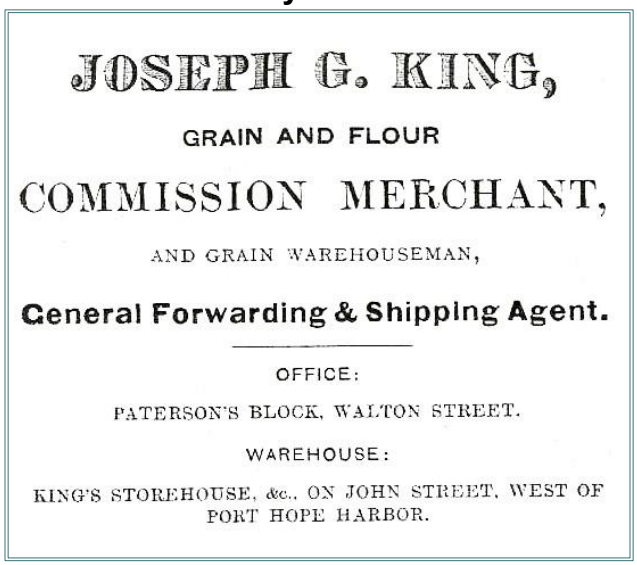
Hiram Gillett built this three-storey block on land purchased from Robert N. Waddell in 1844. An inscription over the second storey window on the rounded corner indicates the building was completed in 1845. Gillett was later noted for the erection of the St. Lawrence Hotel (87-97 Walton Street) in 1853. In 1876, Gillett sold the block to Stanley Paterson, Secretary and Treasurer for the Midland Loan and Savings Company. Mr Paterson. Established a stock exchange in the block. He made some modifications to the building by adding windows on the Queen Street façade.

Prior to the completion of the Town Hall in 1853, the Town Council had no permanent meeting location. The first Town Council met in Gillett's Block until the Town Hall was completed.

Hiram Gillett (1818-1888) was a local assessor and dry good merchant who was the proprietor of a store on the western side of the building along Queen Street in this block. He was born in New Hampshire, came to Canada, and established a business in 1832.

A variety of businesses have been located in the Gillett Paterson Block including the offices of a coroner and division court agent (Robert Maxwell), several attorneys-at-law (George Brogdin and T.M. Benson), VR Customs, the IOOF, plus a hardware merchant (McLeod and Company), flour and grain merchant (Joseph King) and the Times Printing office. In 1879, the Bank of Toronto occupied the corner unit, and later in 1901, the Bank of Montreal that had been located in the Waddell Block (1-3 Walton Street) moved to this location. In 1901, the Mechanics Institute, which was the precursor to the Port Hope Public Library, was located in an upper floor in the easterly most unit.

Historical Directory Ad



JOSEPH G. KING,

GRAIN AND FLOUR

COMMISSION MERCHANT,

AND GRAIN WAREHOUSEMAN,

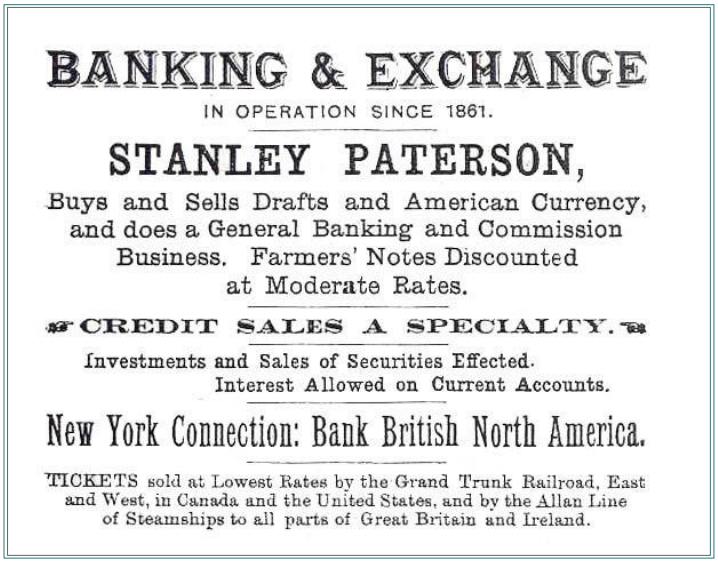
General Forwarding & Shipping Agent.

OFFICE:

PATERSON'S BLOCK, WALTON STREET.

WAREHOUSE:

KING'S STOREHOUSE, &c., ON JOHN STREET, WEST OF PORT HOPE HARBOR.



BANKING & EXCHANGE

IN OPERATION SINCE 1861.

STANLEY PATERSON,

Buys and Sells Drafts and American Currency, and does a General Banking and Commission Business. Farmers' Notes Discounted at Moderate Rates.

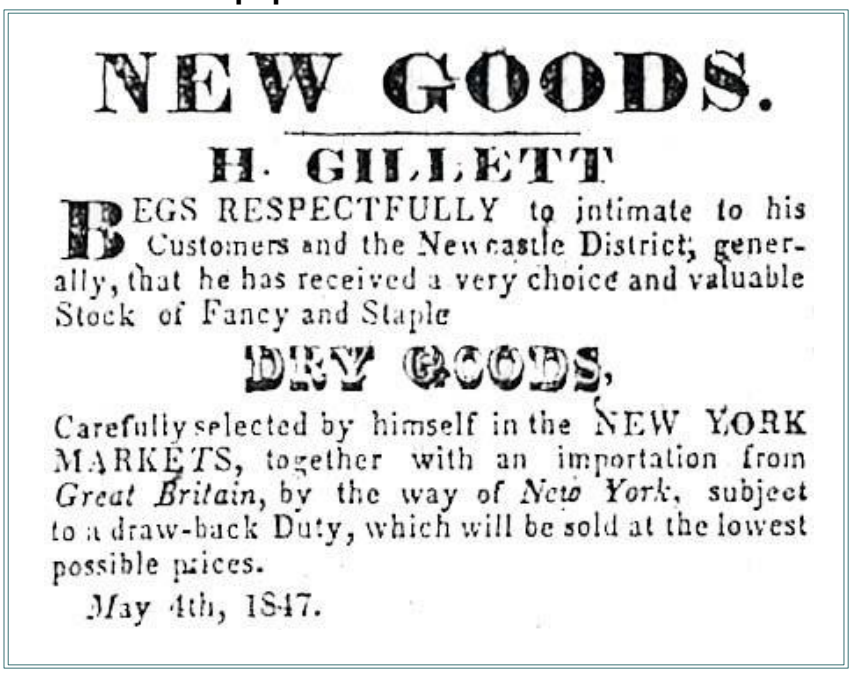
CREDIT SALES A SPECIALTY.

Investments and Sales of Securities Effected.
Interest Allowed on Current Accounts.

New York Connection: Bank British North America.

TICKETS sold at Lowest Rates by the Grand Trunk Railroad, East and West, in Canada and the United States, and by the Allan Line of Steamships to all parts of Great Britain and Ireland.

Historical Newspaper Ad



NEW GOODS.

H. GILLETT

BEGS RESPECTFULLY to intimate to his Customers and the Newcastle District, generally, that he has received a very choice and valuable Stock of Fancy and Staple

DRY GOODS,

Carefully selected by himself in the NEW YORK MARKETS, together with an importation from *Great Britain*, by the way of *New York*, subject to a draw-back Duty, which will be sold at the lowest possible prices.

May 4th, 1847.

An ad that appeared in the local paper in 1847 for Hiram Gillett's Dry Goods Store located in the Gillett Block. Later in the century, in 1880, after Stanley Paterson purchased the block, Joseph G. King, grain and flour merchant had his office in the building.