MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 121 Cavan Street

Known as: The Globe Factory

Architectural Style: Vernacular - Industrial

Date Built: Circa 1853

Date Designated: April 15, 1988 amended March 14, 1988 to By-Law No. 21/85 & 30/88, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT 75



Architectural Description

The early section comprises a two-storey, twelve- bay centre section in red stock brick with pilaster treatment and continuous parapet, ornamented with dog toothing across the lower edge of the parapet or the top of the arcading formed by the pilasters and by a three-step moulded plinth. The windows are paired in each bay and segmentally headed on both storeys and include twenty-four pane windows upstairs, thirty-two pane windows downstairs.

The north section comprises a heavy reinforced concrete structure with exposed concrete on the exterior. The tops of the exposed concrete on the exterior. The tops of the columns are ornamented with triangular recesses. The interior is reinforced concrete slabs with mushroom-headed columns. The exterior has red brick spandrels and parapet with steel industrial sash. This comprises a two-storey, nine bay section with a single storey three bay addition.

The south section is a five-bay concrete beam and slab construction with pilastered red brick facade with steel industrial sash on Cavan Street, with wood sash and frame on the south and riversides of the building. Part of the building, a very early mill, incorporates an abutment of the early mill dam and the section projecting into the river includes some stone masonry, including a tail race arch.

This site comprises industrial and archeological composites of many periods with an excellent industrial streetscape. It is important historically as an important industrial base in Port Hope since the 1830s.

Historical Abstract

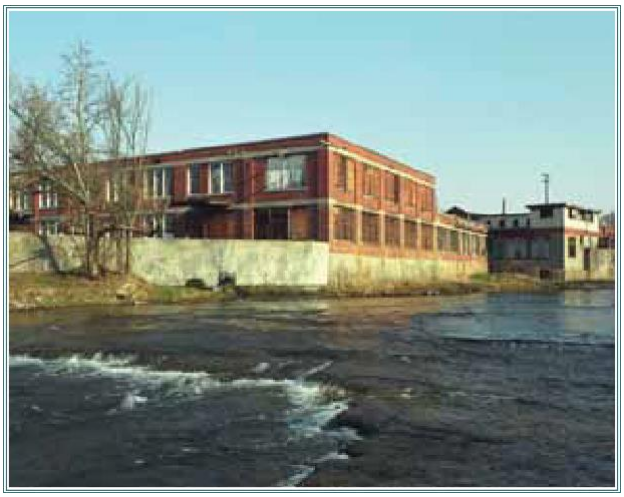
The Globe Manufacturing Company was established in Port Hope as early as the 1830's. In 1853, the first phase of the factory was built. It was later known as the Black Diamond and Nicholson File Factory. Over the years of its operation from 1853 to 1976, new buildings were added to the original structure as the business expanded. The original Globe Manufacturing building included a mill powered by the Ganaraska River and set up a pattern of street-related buildings with river-related sheds behind. Evidence can still be seen on the riverside of the early mill, and incorporated in the building, is the abutment of the early mill dam.

The earliest section of the building is a two-storey L shaped structure thought to be constructed in 1853. To the north of this building and adjoining it is a single storey sloped roof red brick structure. The structure has decorative cast iron columns with cast iron roof beams, and the windows are similar to those in the adjoining building suggesting a construction date of 1853.

Early factories depended on natural light for the work place. In the earliest section of the building large windows are incorporated and, on the second floor, clerestory windows provided light.

The building is now an amalgam of several structures each built to conform to the industrial requirements of the day. For many years the factory produced tools, primarily files and related tools. The Nicholson File Company was one of the town's largest employers and held a very important place in the economic stability of

Port Hope. In 1976, the factory was closed and the building was leased to a variety of tenants. At one time, the building was considered for the site of the Canoe Museum that was later established in Peterborough.



Architectural Detail

The factory as seen from the river looking north west.