MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 25-27 Walton Street

Known as: Kirchhoffer Ontario Block

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District

Date Built: Circa 1845

Date Designated: November 3, 1980 to By-Law No. 41/80, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: PLAN 14 LOT 2



Architectural Description

The Ontario Block is an 1845 brick commercial building with residential and/or storage space above, three storeys in a single unit with later rear extension. This is another of the early buildings on the lower end of Walton and follows the detail of 1-3 Walton Street at the corner, with bold projecting trim in wood.

Original sash have been restored. Cornices are attached to second floor window frames, resembling the detail on 1-3 Walton at the same level and eared trim occur at the third floor level which features were restored in the course of rebuilding the front and new east wall facing. A new shop front of the traditional divided pattern was inserted. The second floor had been converted to offices and the-third floor is vacant. The roof is a gabled form parallel to the street. Old sash survived in the west side of the rear extension, but were replaced more recently.

Historical Abstract

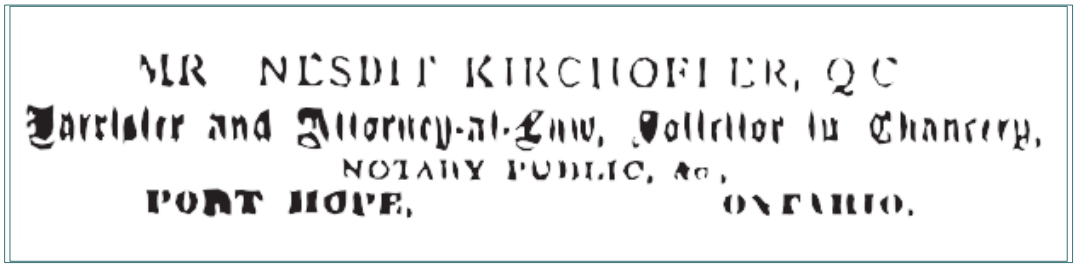
Nesbit Kirchhoffer erected this building, originally known as the Ontario or Kirchhoffer Block circa 1845. Kirchhoffer (1813-1879), originally from Cork, Ireland, was a lawyer, former president of the Port Hope Police Board (1848) and Mayor of the town in 1872. He settled in Port Hope in 1835 and practised law from 1840 until his death in 1879. He was Captain of the Union Fire Department from 1856-57. In 1846, he built his majestic residence Pinehurst (44 Pine Street North) amidst the pines of Pine Street.

In the 1850's, D. McLennan, a hardware merchant, occupied the first floor of the building. William Sinclair, an architect, occupied the upper floors. The building has also been used for a series of law offices, once occupied by Judge Duncan Chisholm and H. A. Ward, amongst others.

This handsome three-storey building was badly damaged in the flood of 1980 when its two neighbours to the east were so damaged that they had to be demolished. This building was reconstructed maintaining the original proportions.

The large, heavily trimmed eight over eight double hung windows of the upper storeys give this building elegant proportions. The shop front has been replicated with a divided light typical of shop fronts of this period. The wood cornice, sign band and wood panelling below make this one of Port Hope's finest shop fronts.

Historical Directory Ad


MR NESBIT KIRCHHOFFER, Q C
Barrister and Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor in Chancery,
NOTARY PUBLIC, &c.,
PORT HOPE, ONTARIO.

Nesbitt Kirchhoffer had his law offices in the Kirchhoffer Block.



Architectural Detail

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