MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

# HERITAGE DESIGNATION

## Address: 127-129 Walton Street

**Known as**: L.B. Powers House

**Architectural Style:** Walton Street Heritage District - Neo-Classic

**Date Built:** Circa 1853 (modified 1878)

**Date Designated:** April 7, 1982 to By-Law No. 16/82, SCHEDULE B-1

**Lot Description:** STEWART PLAN TOWN PLOT PT LOT 56



## Architectural Description

Built in approximately 1852, 127-129 Walton Street is an important part of the Downtown Core of Port Hope. From 1878 to 1930 this building was the residence of the prominent physician. Dr. L. B. Powers. The house is a two and a half storey brick home. Originally the main facade held three bays on the first and second storeys and the extension to the east housed the medical office. The roof was parapet gabled, similar to numerous other Port Hope dwellings of the townhouse type. A tall narrow window lit up the half storey in the east gable; two chimneys were on each parapet end.

The "new" raised roof is now of moderate pitch, and a hipped-roofed, three storey brick tower has been added on the west wall. Windows on the Walton Street facade have been extensively altered and one can see clearly the bricked-in area of the former doorway visible in the 1878 photograph. The windows on the east wall have also been enlarged and a new gable, lit by a pair of windows, has been added. The rectangular wing to the south remains virtually unaltered from the 1878 photograph.

According to the owners' investigations and discovery of early windows blocked in by additions, the original house is the rectangular two and a half-storey section (excepting the altered roof and tower) fronted on Walton Street. The addition to the south appears to be constructed of used lumber and the windows are early. The addition to the east, housing the doctor's office, was also an 1870's addition.

## Historical Abstract

In 1852, Almon Harris, lumber merchant and grandson of Myndert Harris, one of the first settlers of Port Hope, bought a sizable section of land on the south side of Walton Street from Port Hope builder, William Brogdin. The land purchased by Harris lay between the dwelling house of a Mrs. Martha Mitchell, and one owned by Brogdin himself and occupied by Robert Wallace. Presumably, Harris built the house almost immediately for it is shown on the 1853 Wall and Forrest map of Port Hope.

In 1857, the Bank of Upper Canada seized the house by way of mortgage for Harris. In 1868, the Bank of Upper Canada sold the lot and dwelling to Hope Township yeoman, John Campbell. In 1878, John Campbell and his wife, Electa, sold the house and property to Lafontaine Baldwin Powers, a prominent Port Hope physician.

Dr. Lafontaine Baldwin Powers was a respected and popular physician in Port Hope. He was very active on the local board of education and the public school on Ward Street is named after him. Dr. Powers was also the medical superintendent of Trinity College School.

In 1889 Powers bought the narrow strip of land to the west of his house, and in 1891, from executors of William Brogdin's estate, the land to the east of his house. By 1900, Dr. Powers had a considerable holding on Walton Street. In 1905, Powers sold a fraction of an acre to the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church (Clark, Dingwall, and Long) for $1.00, and the present St. Paul's Presbyterian Church was built to the west of Powers' house in 1906. The

house remained in the Powers family until 1930.



**Architectural Detail**

Originally the main facade had three bays on the first and second storeys. The extension to the east housed a medical office. The roof was parapet gabled, similar to numerous other Port Hope dwellings of the townhouse type.