MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 7-11 Queen Street

Known as: Neelands Block

Architectural Style: Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1876

Date Designated: April 21, 1986 to By-Law No. 28/86, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: LOT 1 PT STEWART PLAN



Architectural Description

The property on the east side of Queen Street is a relatively simple though good example of Port Hope's commercial structures from the later years of the Town's historic building period. It is also a handsome part of the streetscape, despite its modest size and scale. It's ornamental brickwork carries on the fine tradition in such detail locally.

The two storey L-shaped brick building has had owners or tenants occupying both floors, access to the second floor still being by way of a stairway up the south wall.

Historical Abstract

Dr. Thomas Neelands is thought to have arranged for the construction of this two unit commercial block in 1876. The building was known as the Neelands Block and is referred to as such in the legal description for the property.

Dr. Neelands (1842-1906) was born in Brampton in 1842 and studied Dentistry at the Royal College of Dental Surgeons in Toronto. He established a dental office in Port Hope in 1863 with a location on Walton Street. During the late 1870's, Dr. Neeland also arranged for the construction of his house located at 53 King Street.

Dr. Neelands occupied the top floor of the Neelands Block and rented the street level north and south commercial areas. For many years, the late A.J. Runnells operated a general insurance agency in the north section. The late J.A.R. Elliott purchased this business from the Runnells Estate in 1919. When J.A.R. Elliott died in 1948, his son Ross Elliott took over the family insurance business, and when he retired in 1978, his son Peter became the third generation to carry on an insurance business in this location until 1981, when Peter moved to another location.

The south unit was occupied as a harness shop in 1901, and later in the early 1920's; Mr. Joe Hawkins operated a boot, shoe and leather repair store. Don Smith, a barber, rented the south half in the early 1930's and he was succeeded by his son in law, J.M. Hughes.

Dr. M.S. Hawkins had worked with Dr. Neelands and eventually purchased the building and joint business. Both Dr. Hawkins and Mrs. Hawkins were very active, publicly spirited citizens, and as a tribute, the former Old High School on Pine Street North was named Dr. M.S. Hawkins School in his memory.

Historical Directory Ad



An ad that appeared in the 1880 business directory announcing a new location for Dr. Neelands Dental Practice.