MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 99-105 Walton Street

Known as: Porter Block

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District

Date Built: Circa 1850

Date Designated: October 6, 1997 to By-Law No. 44/97

Lot Description: PT 55 TO 57



Architectural Description

This is a commercial block with residential and/or storage space above. It is three storeys high in three units and the gabled roof is parallel to Walton Street, with parapets and end chimneys. The facade is of brick in a common bond pattern and is painted a light buff colour to resemble sand stone. It is a handsome structure of the earlier type with pilasters and projecting brick caps. The ornamental brick cornice to the eaves contains dogtoothing. There are six bays to Walton Street, with recessed window panels and two-sash style windows. The windows are supported by a wooden sill and headed by a timber lintel. The shop fronts are of modern design and recently, the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario improved the front by lowering the top of the western most shop front fascia to align this feature across the front of the building. A wooden verandah is attached to the second floor at the rear of the block. The brick is its original colour at the rear, not painted like the front. The windows are supported by a plain sill with a flat brick arch overhead, instead of the lintel as in front.

Historical Abstract

In 1848, Archibald Porter, manufacturer of ploughs, wagons and stoves purchased this property. Porter (1806-1890) was born in Ireland in 1806, arriving in Canada in the early part of the century. He was a member of the first Town Council in 1853.

In 1850, fire destroyed Porter's wooden shop, frame house and part of his iron foundry, located behind the shop and house. After the ruinous fire, Porter erected this block shortly after the fire. The property stayed in the Porter family until the death of Archibald in 1890.

In 1893, Archibald Porter's wife Sarah sold the block to John Curtis. John Curtis had a grocery store in the block in the early 1900's.

In 1852, McDermot & Walsh, local businessmen who were land and insurance agents in addition to having a wholesale grocery store had their business located in the Porter Block. In 1865, J.S. McHenry, manufacturer of biscuits, occupied an office in the block, as did W.S. and J.S. Johnston, printers and publishers of the Port Hope Guide in 1865. J.H. Hagerman, meat dealer, occupied the easternmost unit in Porter's Block, one door west of the St. Lawrence Hotel, in 1876. The Grand Trunk Express Office was located in the block around the turn of the century. It was the business office for the train station. Employees would pick up parcels at the train station; bring them back to the express office, where their owners would come to collect them.

Historical Ads



Insurance Agency.

MARINE INSURANCE.

Provincial, Mutual and General Insurance Company of Toronto—Capital £100,000.

FIRE INSURANCE.

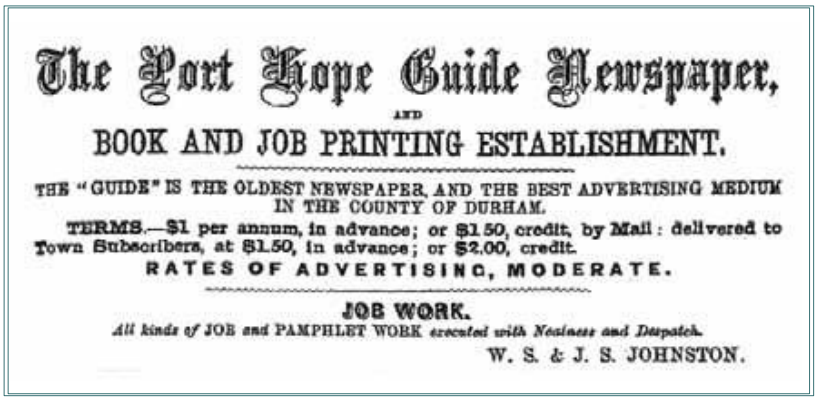
Equitable Fire Insurance Company, of London—Capital £500,000 St'g.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

National Loan Fund Life Assurance Society of London—Capital £500,000 St'g.

McDERMOT & WALSH, *Agents*, Porter's Buildings.

Port Hope, 9th Sept., 1852.



The Port Hope Guide Newspaper,

AND

BOOK AND JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

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Archival Photo



The Porter Block was built before the neighbouring St. Lawrence Hall. As seen in archival photos, the building was a handsome block with contrasting pilasters and projecting brick caps with ornamental brick cornice to eaves. The shop fronts were typical of commercial buildings of this period.