MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 78-92 Walton Street

Known as: Quinlan Block

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District

Date Built: Circa 1866

Date Designated: October 6, 1997 to By -Law No. 44/97, SCHEDULE B-10

Lot Description: PLAN 30 PT LOT 1, 2, 3, 4, AND 5 N OF WALTON



Architectural Description

This is a three storey brick building in five sections, presently used for commercial and residential purposes. It is an intermediate unit in a row of commercial blocks with a low-pitched shed roof sloping back from the street. There are series of twelve semi-circular bays on the second storey and a series of twelve semi-elliptical bays on the third storey.

Windows are double hung sash type; surround heads are ornamental brick labels with patterned keystones. The facade of the building enjoys several ornamental features, namely, a shop front cornice of dogtoothing, a horizontal course of ornamental brick work between the second and third storey, formed by rows of stretcher, header, stretcher, to create a series of crosses or diapers, a bracketed cornice constructed in a panelled brick parapet.

On the shop front level, two of the original brick columns are visible; one located between the two westernmost sections and the three sections in the east, and the other located between the two easternmost shops. A section of one original transom, and the entire original transom and door to the upper storeys still remain, with the partial transom located between the two westernmost shops and those to the east, and the entire door and transom can be found between the two eastern most shops. Also of note is the date marker found in the keystone of the third storey bay, numbered sixth from the east.

Historical Abstract

The Quinlan Block provides the focal point of Walton Street as viewed from John Street.

Cornelius Quinlan built the block in 1866. The date of completion can be seen in the keystone of one of the centre window lintels, third storey.

Cornelius Quinlan (1822-1883) was a successful tinsmith and merchant whose business enterprise occupied the westernmost section of the block. Originally from Ireland, he came to Canada at a young age. He married Eliza Quay, daughter of early settler Thomas Quay of Hope Township. He was a dealer in cooking and coal stoves; tin, sheet iron and copperware; and coal oil lamps. In 1861-65, he served as Mayor of Port Hope and was an active member of the Methodist Church.

In February of 1866 a fire began in Hagerman's Grocery in the Quinlan Block and subsequently destroyed the entire block. As reported in the British Canadian, February 22, 1866:

"On Sunday morning last, another fire occurred in this town destroying the entire range of buildings on the north side of Walton Street between Wilson's and Knowlson's Brick Blocks. Those buildings were owned by C. Quinlan Esq. They were occupied respectively by William Skitch, merchant tailor; William Cooles, shoemaker; T.R. and C.A. Hagerman, grocers; J.J. O'Donnell, bookseller; and J. Hoffman, tobacconist and toy store."

The block was re-built shortly after the fire in 1866.

In addition to holding the position of Mayor of Port Hope from 1861 to 1865, Cornelius Quinlan also had real estate holdings on Ontario Street (20-24 Ontario Street), and an elegant residence named Rose Lawn on Pine Street (78 Pine Street South). In 1867, Quinlan also purchased the Grange (33 South Street).

In the 1850's, he built a commercial block at 26 Ontario Street which he later sold to John Walker in 1865. Upon his death in August 1883, and as a supplement to his will, C. Quinlan drew up a carefully measured survey of his holdings in the Walton and Ontario Street area of Port Hope. The land was subdivided into numbered lots and then colour coded. Quinlan then used this numero-chromatic key to refer to the lands that he was bequeathing. The plan is in the registry office registered as Plan 30.

Historical Directory Ad


STOVES & TINWARE.

R. DUNN & Co.

HAVE THE

LARGEST AND BEST ASSORTED STOCK

OF

RANGES

COAL AND WOOD

COOKING STOVES

Hall and Parlor Stoves,

In Port Hope, which they offer

CHEAP FOR CASH.

In our Stock will be found

Pumps in great variety, Iron and Lead Pipe, Coal Oil, Lamps and Lamp Goods, and Enamelled Ware.

SPECIALTIES:

GALVANIZED IRON ROOFING, EAVE TROUGHING, ETC.

FURNACE WORK,

For heating Public and Private Dwellings, at LOWEST RATES. Estimates given at BOTTOM FIGURES for all work in our line. A call solicited.

R. DUNN & CO.,

Quinlan's Old Stand, Walton Street, Port Hope.

R. Dunn & Co. took over Quinlan's Old Stand selling many of the same products Cornelius Quinlan sold. This ad appeared in a business directory from 1880.

At the time of his death, Cornelius Quinlan left his tin and stove shop to his son, James Walker (J.W.), and the two easternmost sections of the block to his daughter, Mary Hannah, and finally, the two remaining sections went to another daughter, Edith Cornelia. Mary Hannah Quinlan held onto her section until 1905 when she sold the easternmost section of the block to Thomas Wickett. She sold the adjoining section to Henry Skitch, son of William Skitch who carried on the family tailoring business.

Archival Photo



The Quinlan Block decorated for an event at the turn of the century. The building represents the third phase of Walton Street building with pilasters absent but complex decorative brickwork of band courses, window labels and cornice topped by panelled brick parapet.



Architectural Detail

The Quinlan Block as viewed from John Street with the former Queen's Hotel on the right and the Music Hall or Opera Block to the left.