MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

# HERITAGE DESIGNATION

## Address: 94-96 Walton Street

**Known as**: The Quinlan Building

**Architectural Style:** Walton Street Heritage District

**Date Built:** Circa 1855

**Date Designated:** April 5, 1985 to By-Law No. 21/85, SCHEDULE B-5

**Lot Description:** PLAN 30 PT LOT 6 STEWART; PLAN PT 71



## Architectural Description

This is a typical commercial building of the mid-development period of Port Hope's central business area. It is in effect an extension of the neighbouring seven-bay block to the west at the northeast corner of Cavan Street, a building notable for its pilastered design, ornamental brick cornice and cast iron lintels and sills to windows. 94-96 Walton Street is actually a separate two-bay, four-storey building in brick of similar design but differing slightly in the detail of its brick cornice. Original sashing of six panes over six survives in the upper two floors, but the interior of the second floor and the shop front were modernized when the building became the offices of the Port Hope Hydro.

The brickworks of the front have been re-pointed and painted in a brick pattern. The original arrangement of the structure was a main floor devoted to retail use and other floors, including the basement, were used for storage accessible through a hatch in the centre of the floor. Goods were hauled up and down by a windlass mounted in the top floor.

The building appears to date to about the time of the coming of the railway, or just before when this arrangement would have been necessary to provide for long-term stocking, especially during winter freeze-up. The form of the building is a low slope shed roof to the rear necessitating either a sheet metal covering or built-up roofing of tar, felt and gravel, first recorded in the Town about 1858. The building now includes a two-storey brick wing behind, over a basement. It is believed that this possibly had an additional storey in its original form.

## Historical Abstract

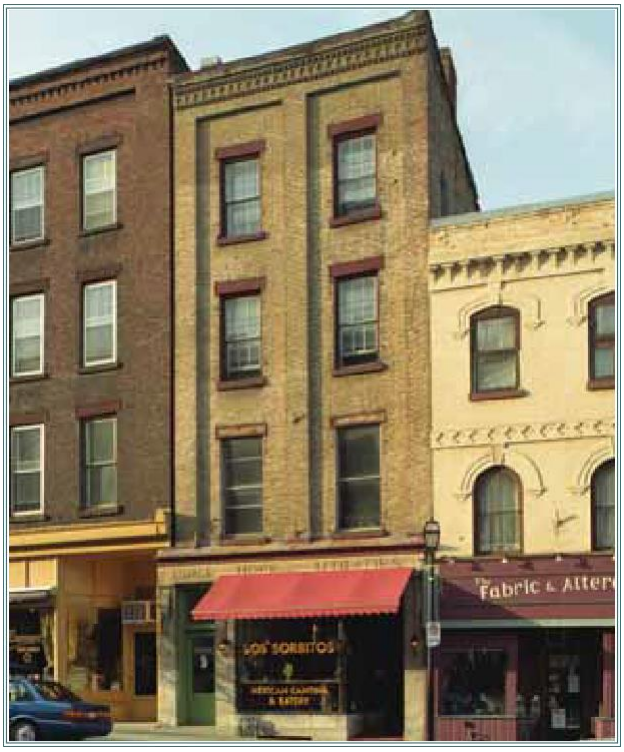
Cornelius Quinlan (1822-1883) built this building in 1855. Quinlan was a successful tinsmith and merchant whose business enterprise occupied the neighbouring block to the east (78-92 Walton Street). In his will dated 1883, he left this block, along with the first section of the block to the east (92 Walton Street), to his son, James Walker Quinlan.

Similar to his father, Cornelius, J. W. Quinlan was active in local politics and held the position of Mayor of Port Hope from 1896-1900, and again in 1904. Among his many accomplishments, he also introduced electric lighting to the town establishing the Port Hope Electric Light Company in 1885.

James remained the owner until the time of his death in 1906 when his sister, Edith Silvester, purchased the block. When Mrs. Silvester died in 1908, Mary Hannah Quinlan, another sister, acting as executrix, sold the building to John G. Steen. Shortly afterwards, Steen sold the block to John Westaway. The Westaway's had a furniture store in the block until the 1930's. The Westaway's also owned a house on Bruton Street (30 Bruton Street). In 1933, Westaway sold the building to the Port Hope Hydro Electric Commission, who used this location until 1975.

The building also incorporates a two-storey rear addition with basement at grade to the laneway behind and a frame extension. The land on which the addition is situated was sold by blacksmith, George Blatchford in 1870 to another blacksmith, James O'Brien. In 1910, the property was sold to George A. Outram who sold it in 1920 then acquired it again in 1941. He sold it to the partners of Durham

Hardware and Electric along with the adjoining building, which was then sold to James H. Thompson in 1951 who sold it to the Hydro Commission in 1960.




**Architectural Detail**

This narrow block carries on the design of the adjoining four storey structure incorporating a pilastered front and ornamental brick cornice. Original sash survive in the upper two storeys but have been removed from the second storey. The shop front is an earlier twentieth century alteration made when the building was used as a public utility office. The adjoining Quinlan Block on the right side was constructed in the mid 1860's and incorporates later design details.