MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 35 Walton Street

Known as: Robertson Building

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District

Date Built: Circa 1850

Date Designated: May 16, 1983 to By-Law No. 31/83, SCHEDULE B-5

Lot Description: PLAN 33 LOTS 6 TO 11; PART LOT 53



Architectural Description

This three storey brick commercial block with residential and/or storage space above, has a single unit facing Walton Street with two additional units on Queen Street. Originally it was part of the Long-Robertson Building, 37 Walton, but an improvement scheme of 1955 saw the fourth storey removed and the facade stuccoed, destroying the decorative brick cornice. There are three bays to the main facade, including one on the rounded corner. The second and third storey windows appear as casement windows, but function as double hung, and have transom over sash supported by cement lugsills. The building follows the early tradition of the street, with long pilasters separating the windows. The Walton Street shop front is of modern design with a recessed door. Originally, the door was on the corner to Walton and Queen Streets. The Queen Street front is indented to accommodate the awkward lot line as the Robertson Plan continues down the street.

Historical Abstract

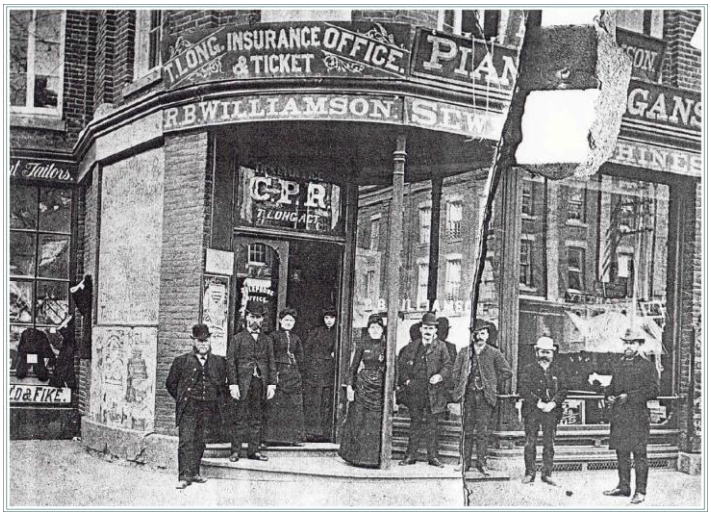
Peter James Robertson (1826-1906) acquired the land from his father James in 1849. The Robertson Estate extended along Walton Street and down Queen Street as far as the present-day Capitol Theatre. James Robertson (1793-1871), originally from England, established a tannery and residence at this location in the early part of the century. Mid-century, the tannery was moved to John and Robertson Street and Peter Robertson erected the Robertson Block.

The Robertson Building was originally part of the neighbouring block to the west and formed an impressive corner to Walton and Queen Streets (35 Walton, 37 Walton and 41-51 Walton). The corner section has been altered by the removal of the 4th floor of 35 Walton Street and application of a stucco finish thus divorcing it from the earlier composition. The rounded corner detail gives interest to the overall composition and an elegant way to address this corner condition. Originally the shop front entrance was on the corner.

Tom Long established his insurance and ticket business in this block in 1870, and until 1885, it ran in conjunction with the sale of musical instruments which Mr. Long gave up that year leaving R.B. Williamson to carry on the business. Williamson had been in the building with Tom Long since 1872. In 1882, the Bell Telephone Company established the first telephone switchboard in Port Hope in Tom Long's office, and his staff operated it. Tom Long moved his business to the Stevenson Block (18-22 Queen Street) at the turn of the century. During 1890, Williamson moved to the Kirchhoffer-Ontario Block (25-27 Walton Street). Photographs from the Clayton Collection place Merrifield and Fike, tailors, in the shop facing Queen Street during the tenancy of Tom Long and R.B. Williamson.

Peter James Robertson owned the block until his death in 1906, after which 35 Walton Street was conveyed to Robertson's youngest daughter, Maude.

Archvial Photos



The entrance to 35 Walton Street was on the rounded corner of the building. Photographs from the Clayton Collection place Merrifield and Fike, merchant tailors, in the shop facing Queen Street during the tenancy of Tom Long Insurance and R.B. Williamson.



The Robertson Building at the corner of Queen Street and Walton as it wraps around the corner. The building had four storeys extending to the middle of Walton Street on the south side.