MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 1 Maitland Street

Known as: Walker Building

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Date Built: Circa 1869

Date Designated: July 25, 1983 to By-Law No. 40/83, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT 71 STEWART PLAN





Architectural Description

One Maitland Street is a three and a half storey common bond brick rear addition to an Ontario Street commercial building. It has a medium pitched parapet gabled roof with a single chimney on the west end. On the north facade there are four bays on the second and third storeys, and two stomachers on the upper half-storey. The windows have flat arches of brick and some original wooden lugsills, with others of concrete. The ground floor has had two entranceways bricked over and one metal doorway remains.

A concrete retaining wall runs half the length of the building. The rear wall has a single bay on each of the three upper storeys and a large service entranceway on the ground floor, and again a concrete protecting wall. Bought in 1981 by the present owner, the interior has been totally rehabilitated to accommodate an artist's studio while maintaining the original integrity of the exterior. 1 Maitland Street is a good example of the sensitive rehabilitation of an 1869 parapet gabled commercial building, which is an integral part of the nineteenth century texture of the commercial core of Port Hope.

Historical Abstract

Maitland Street was laid out in 1823 by Erasmus Fowke, the owner of the property who had a store on the northeast corner of Walton and Cavan Streets (98-106 Walton Street). The street originally ran from Cavan Street north and east in a loop to the present bend at the southwest corner at the Ganaraska Hotel, and then cut southeasterly to Walton Street creating a row of approximately eleven lots along the edge of the river.

In 1851, Cornelius Quinlan (1822-1883) a tinsmith and coppersmith merchant on Walton Street bought this section of Lot 71. The same year Ontario Street was opened and the section of Maitland Street that ran through the site of the present building was closed, so Quinlan purchased that triangular section also. It is presumed that Quinlan constructed a brick block (26 Ontario Street) mid-century.

In 1865, John Walker, Port Hope cabinetmaker, bought the lot and brick building thereon from Quinlan, although he had been in the cabinet making and upholstery business at this site since at least 1856. The 1857 Assessment Roll for Ward 1 informs that Walker was renting the Ontario Street premises from Quinlan. Walker (1824-1894) was originally from Ireland.

In the spring of 1869, Walker replaced the frame building to the rear of his Ontario Street commercial building with this three and a half storey brick wing, measuring twenty-three feet by forty-eight feet. Mr. Walker's Ontario Street building and rear addition were used as a furniture showroom and funeral parlour and, by 1880; his cabinet-making factory was located in Brogdin's Lane.

As was common in the nineteenth century, the funerary business was combined with furniture or cabinet making. Funerals took place in private dwellings. Caskets were simple wooden affairs and a secondary business for furniture makers.

John Walker died in 1894, but the building remained in the Walker family until 1923 when it was sold to Gordon Jex, a Port Hope funeral director. The undertaking business was carried on under the name of "Walker and Jex" and

later "Jex and Smith". The building was later conveyed as two separate properties. (26 Ontario Street and 1 Maitland Street.).

Historical Directory Ad



FURNITURE ! FURNITURE !

The undersigned having his New Factory in complete running order is now prepared to sell Furniture FOR CASH cheaper than ever before.

Job Turning & Scroll Sawing a Specialty. Work Warranted.

Metallic and Wooden COFFINS AND CASKETS.

SHROUDS, CRAPE. GLOVES And everything else required for FUNERALS.

THE UNDERTAKING DEPARTMENT

Contains all the above Funeral Furnishing at Low Rates. Parties wishing anything in my line will do well to give me a call, as I am bound NOT TO BE UNDERSOLD.

Ontario St., P. H. JOHN WALKER, Proprietor.

An ad that appeared for John Walker's Furniture and Undertaking Business in a directory of 1880.