MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 70-76 Walton Street

Known as: Wilson Block

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District

Date Built: Circa 1853 (REPLACEMENT 1955)

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

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT 71 STEWART PLAN



Architectural Description

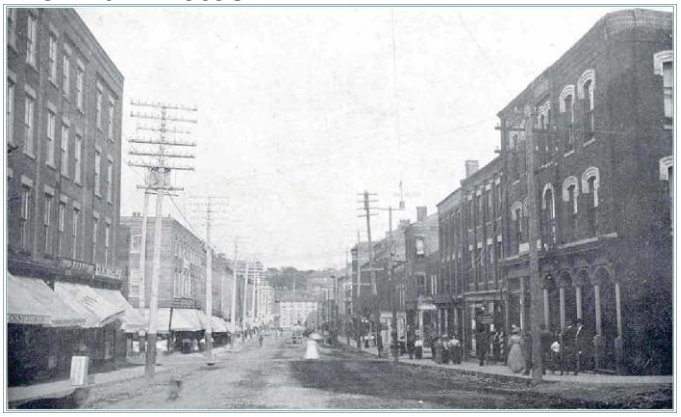
The original circa 1850 multi-storey brick commercial block with characteristic rounded corner was demolished about 1955 and replaced with the present structure of two storeys for a bank building at 70-72 Walton Street. This is partly of brick panel and partly glazed with coloured spandrel infilling surmounted by a pronounced horizontal overhang. The neighbouring 74 and 76 Walton Street which were part of the original block were also replaced in 1955 with one storey buildings utilizing the existing floors and foundations of the former block. The replacement block was designed by Architects Blackwell, Craig and Zeidler.

Historical Abstract

An article appeared in the Port Hope Guide on July 30, 1853 that described the progress of "Mr. Wilson's building on the corner of Walton and Ontario Streets, will also be four stories high, and will contain three large and commodious stores. This building will be highly ornamental and from its conspicuous position will present a very fine appearance. The foundations are all completed and a good part of the woodwork has been commenced; the building will be completed this fall. The stores are already engaged."

In 1857, Furby and Crea had their printing offices and published the Guide from this location. Robert Deyell had his drugstore in this block for several decades. For several years a library and reading room was maintained on an upper floor of the Wilson Block over Robert Deyell's Drugstore (70-72 Walton Street) at the corner of Ontario and Walton. W.S Henderson had his store in the Wilson Block in the 1880s.

Archival Photos



The Wilson Block in on the left with awnings opened. There were three shop fronts on the street level.



A view of the corner of Ontario and Walton Street with the Wilson Block on the right. The sign on the exterior of the building advertises Deyell's Drugstore which was in the block from approximately 1870 into the twentieth century when this photo was taken in the early 1900's.