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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST BY-LAW NUMBER 41,

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN
THE TOWN OF PORT HOPE AS BEING OF HISTORIC
TATUE OR INTEREST. TOWN OF PORT HOPE WHEREAS Section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 authorizes the Council of the Municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all of the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic or architectual value or interest; AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Port Hope deems it desirable to designate the following properties: 1. 34 - 46 Walton Street "The Smith Block" 2. 25 - 27 Walton Street 3. 81 Walton Street 4. Ballintruan or St. Hugh's House 5. Helm House, 61 King Street 6. Belgrave - part of Greenwood Tower Inn and has caused to be served on the owners of the respective lands and premises, and upon The Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notices of intention to designate the aforesaid real properties and has caused such Notices of Intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once a week for each of three consecutive weeks, namely in "The Port Hope Evening Guide" on the 5th of September, 1980, on the 12th day of September, 1980 and on the 19th day of September, 1980. AND WHEREAS the lands of the subject properties are more particularly described in Schedule "A-1" to "A-6" attached hereto and the reasons for designating the respective properties are set out in "B-1" to "B-6" attached hereto; AND WHEREAS no notification of objections to any of the proposed designations has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality; NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PORT HOPE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS: 1. There is designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest the following real properties as important components of the Walton Street streetscape; (1) "34 to 46 Walton Street known as The Smith Block" being more particularly described in Schedule "A-1" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law. The reasons for the designation of this property are set out in Schedule "B-1" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law. (2) "25 to 27 Walton Street" being more particularly described in Schedule "A-2" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law. The reasons for the

- designation of this property are set out in Schedule "B-2" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
- (3) "81 Walton Street" being more particularly described in Schedule "A-3" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law. The reasons for the designation of this property are set our in Schedule "B-3" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.

And for architectural reasons:

- (4) "Ballintruan" or "St. Hugh's House" situate on part of Lot Number 2 in the First Concession and being more particularly described in Schedule "A-4" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law. The reasons for the designation of this property are set out in Schedule "B-4" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
- (5) "Helm House" also known as 61 King Street and being more particularly described in Schedule "A-5" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law. The reasons for the designation of this property are set our in Schedule "B-5" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
- (6) "Belgrave" also known as Greenwood Tower Inn being part of Lot Number 3 in the Broken Front Concession more particularly described in Schedule "A-6" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law. The reasons for the designation of this property are set out in Schedule "A-6".
- The Clerk and the Solicitor of the Town of Port Hope are hereby authorized to serve, publish and register copies of the Bylaw in accordance with <u>The Ontario Heritage Act</u>, 1974.

READ a FIRST and SECOND time this 22nd day of September, 1980.

MAYOR CLERK E. Hunt

READ a THIRD time and finally passed in Open Council this 3ea day of November , 1980.

MAYOR WAY

ACLERK

SCHEDULE -"A-1"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Port Hope, in the County of Northumberland, formerly the County of Durham, in the Province of Omtario, containing by admeasurement 0.260 acres be the same more or less, and being a portion of Town Plot Lot Number 72, Stewart Plan, in the said Town of Port Hope, the boundaries of said parcel of land being more particularly described as follows:-

Bearings are astronomic and are derived from the northerly limit of Walton Street having a bearing of North 67 degrees 40 minutes West as shown on a plan of survey dated 23 May, 1934, by J.W. Pierce O.L.S. and attached to Instrument Number C7419 registered in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Port Hope (No. 9);

COMENCING at the point of intersection of the most southerly limit of said Town Plot Lot 72, (being the northerly un-widened limit of value Street), with the southerly production of the westerly face of the westerly brick wall of the three storey brick dwelling somerly standing on the herein described parcel of land, said point being distant 173.65 feet measured on a course of south 67 degrees 40 minutes east along the said northerly limit of Walton Street;

THENCE south 67 degrees 40 minutes east continuing along the said northerly limit of Walton Street a distance of 85.00 feet more or less to its intersection with the southerly production of the westerly face of the westerly wall of the three storey brick building standing on the parcel of land adjoining to the east hereof;

THE ICE north 21 degrees 59 minutes east to and along the westerly face of the said wall a distance of 54.95 feet to the northwesterly comer of the three storey building aforementioned;

THENCE north 23 degrees 49 minutes east in and along the easterly face of the easterly wall of the one storey building formerly standing on the herein described parcel of land, and its production northerly, a distance of 77.07 feet more or less to the intersection ith the southerly limit of Brogdin Lane;

NEWCE north 67 degrees 40 minutes west parallel to and perpendicularly distant 132 feet northerly from the northerly limit of Walton Street, along the southerly limit of Brogdin Lane, a distance of 87.90 feet more or less to its intersection with the resterly face of the westerly wall of a two storey brick building formerly standing on the herein described parcel of land;

THE ICE south 22 degrees 47 minutes west in and along the westerly face of the said westerly wall and the southerly production thereof to, in, and along the westerly face of the westerly brick wall of the three storey brick building formerly standing on the herein described parcel of land, in all a distance of 132.00 feet more or less to the point of commencement.

HE HEREINABOVE described parcel of land being the lands intended to be described in Instruments registered in the aforementioned Registry Office as Numbers 63203, 63083, and 62119, (firstly).

Schedule "B-1"

Reasons for the Designation of 34 - 46 Walton Street inclusive

This property, referred to as "Smith Block" is being designated for historical and architectural reasons as being an important component of the Walton Street streetscape.

In 1850 Elias Peter Smith commissioned Mr. Austin, an architect from Rochester, New York to design a new commercial block to be built on the subject property. Mr. Austin had previously designed Fort Hope's Town Hall.

The Smith Block is a brick commercial block with three storeys in five units. It is a typical nineteenth century design with brick pilasters here capped with wood. The early decorative treatment of contrasting pilasters and cornice in cream and recessed panels in red may reflect the original brickwork or the preferred early treatment. This survives in the west section of the facade.

This Block survived in Port Hope until 1980 when a disastrous fire gutted the inside. The original facade remains standing and a new building using the original three storey restored facade is presently being completed.

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Port Hope, in the County of Northumberland (formerly in the County of Durham) and Province of Ontario being composed of that certain messuage of Town lot known as Lot Number Two on Walton Street in the subdivision of the Mili property of one Robert N. Waddell made by John K. Roche, D.P.L.S., Plan 14, in Port Hope aforesaid known and described as follows: COMMENCING at the north east angle of Lot Number One of the south side of Walton Street then south sixty-four degrees East along the Southern limit of Walton Street thirty-two feet, then south one degree west one hundred and three feet, then north sixty-four degrees west thirty-two feet more or less to the south east angle of sald Lot Number One, then north one degree east along the Eastern limit of sald Lot Number One, one hundred and three feet more or less to the place of beginning with a Right of Entrance from Queen Street as Iald down on sald plan or subdivision and of the width of fourteen feet along the rear of the Eastern ends of Lots Numbers Twenty-two and Twenty-three on Queen Street and being composed of parts of Lot Number Six in the Front Concession of the Township of Hope, which right of entranc from Queen Street is confirmed and referred to in an Indenture dated the eighteenth day of August, 1890 and duly registered in the Registry Office for the East Riding of the said County of Durham as No. 7864 for the Town of Port Hope as aforesaid.

Schedule "B-2"

Reasons for the Designation of 25 - 27 Walton Street

The "Ontario Block" known as 25 to 27 Walton Street are being designated for historical and architectural reasons as an important component of the Walton Street streetscape.

In 1845, a building was added to Walton Street which adjoined the Hirim Gillett building at the corner of Queen and Walton Streets. It was named the "Ontario Block" and was erected by one of Port Hope's leading barristers at law, a former president of the Board of Police in 1848 and Mayor of Port Hope in 1872, Nesbitt Kirchoffer. Mayor Kirchoffer's business partner was also a barrister at law, James Scott, who was Mayor of Port Hope in 1856, 1957 and 1960.

The "Ontario Block" has been the scene of legal activites where many a young lawyer served and articled. An affidavit shows that Col. Arthur Williams studied law here. It was still being used as the office of a law firm of Kelly and O'Connor until the flood of March 21, 1980 caused them to temporarily vacate the premises.

The Ontario Block is an 1845 brick, commercial building with residential and/or storage space above. It is comprised of three storeys in a single unit with later rear extension.

This is one of the early buildings on the lower end of Walton Street. The eared trim is a heavy moulding in wood. Original sash have been lost, but were probably twelve over twelve in the second floor and twelve over eight in the third. Cornices were attached to second floor window frames. Marks of these still show in the brickwork and details can be seen in old photographs. The ground floor shop front is a modern design. The second floor has been converted to offices, and the third floor is vacant. The roof is a gabled form parallel to the street. Old sash survive in the west side of the rear extension.

All in all, it is an important component of the Walton Street streetscape.

Schedule "A-3"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Port Hope, in the County of Northumberland (formerly County of Durham), being composed of parts of Lots Numbers Fifty-four and Fifty-five, in the Town Plot of Port Hope fronting on the south side of Walton Street known as "Queen's Hotel", and more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the point of intersection of the said southerly limit of Walton Street with the easterly limit of John Street of said Town of Port Hope;

THENCE south 67 degrees 40 minutes east (astronomic) along the said southerly limit of Walton Street a distance of 46 feet 1 inch more or less to a point in line with the westerly limit of a brick wall situate on the property immediately to the east of the lands hereby described, being the westerly limit of a party wall referred to in Instrument dated April 30, 1870, and registered in Book 7 for Port Hope as Number 3226;

THENCE South 8 degrees 17 minutes west in and along said westerly limit of the said wall 44 feet 6 inches to the southerly end of the said wall;

THENCE south 6 degrees 47 minutes west a distance of 14 feet to a point;

THENCE south 86 degrees 46 minutes east a distance of 9 feet 8 inches to a point;

THENCE south 3 degrees 13 minutes west in and along the production northerly of the easterly face of a brick wall referred to in a Deed from Hannah Jennings Budge to Lewis G. Bennett, registered in the Registry Office for the East Riding of the County of Durham on June 8, 1904 in Book 25 for the Town of Port Hope as No. 9904, as the Eastern Wall of the Queen's Hotel Kitchen Premises" and to and along the said easterly face of said last mentioned wall 46 feet 4 inches to its intersection with the northerly face of another brick wallreferred to in the Deed lastly above mentioned as the "northerly wall of a part of theQueen's Hotel Stable Premises";

THENCE south 89 degrees 08 minutes east in and along the said northerly face of said last mentioned brick wall 29 feet 6 inches to a point in the westerly limit of lands formerly owned by the late John Smart;

THENCE south 1 degree 22 minutes west in and along the said last mentioned western limit and along the western limit of the Canadian National Railway property 93 feet 7 inches to a point;

Schedule "A-3" - page 2

THENCE North 79 degrees 39 minutes west 73 feet more or less to a point;

THENCE northerly 3 feet 6 inches parallel to the easterly limit of John Street to a point;

THENCE north 79 degrees 39 minutes west 35 feet to a point in the easterly limit of John Street;

THENCE northerly in and along the said easterly limit of John Street 199 feet 1 inch more or less to the place of beginning.

Schedule "B-3"

Reasons for the Designation of 81 Walton Street

81 Walton Street, presently known as "The Walton" is being designated for historical and architectural reasons as an important component of the Walton Street streetscape.

The Walton Hotel formerly known as the Queen's Hotel was built in 1871. A story was added in 1876 and in 1907, a story was also added on the south end of the building. As it stands today, the Walton Hotel is a three storey brick building on the south-east corner of the intersection of John and Walton Streets.

The Walton Street facade is divided in three sections by brick pilasters which carry through the ornamental brick cornice. The narrower central panel contains paried round-headed windows on the third floor surmounted by an ornamental name panel. Below is a round-headed window. Both side panels are identical on the second and third floors and contain paired windows with segmental heads and 2-tier brick labels. The upper windows have individual sills whereas the second floor ones share a continuous sill.

At the ground floor level, the facade has been altered over the years. The east section now contains two large plate glass windows. The larger west section consists of a recessed alcove with four arches supported by five rounded posts resting on square pedestals.

On the John St. side, the top two floors contain 12 windows each with segmental heads and brick labels of the same type found on the Walton Street facade. The windows on the ground floor have round arched heads with brick keystones. The fourth one from Walton Street being of a smaller size. A large rectangular glass block window has replaced a former window at the John Street corner. The first door from Walton Street has a bracketed hood.

All upper floor windows on the Walton Street and John Street facades are 2/2 double hung. An intricate brick cornice extends along the Walton Street facade as well as along John Street. The Walton Street corner of the building is rounded.

A turn of the century photograph shows the building unpainted with all window heads of lighter colored brick. Those window heads are presently enhanced by dark paint contrasting with the lighter colour chosen for the walls.

Schedule "A-4"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate lying and being in the Town of Port Hope, in the County of Northumberland, formerly in the Township of Hope, County of Durham, Province of Ontario and being composed of part of Lot Number Two in the first Concession in the Township of Hope, the boundaries of the said parcel being described as follows:

FIRSTLY:

COMMENCING at a cut stone monument marking the south-west corner of said Lot Number Two;

THENCE North 71 degrees 26 minutes 20 seconds East along the Southerly limit of said Lot 2 a distance of Two hundred and ten and five-tenths feet (210.5') to the line of a wire fence running in a Northerly direction;

THENCE North 18 degrees 53 minutes 40 seconds West in and along the said fence and the production thereof northerly (being the Westerly limits of the lands described in Instrument Number 16899 for the Township of Hope) a distance of Three Hundred and seventy-eight feet (378') to a stake;

THENCE South 71 degrees 14 minutes West a distance of Ninety-one and eight tenths feet (91.8') to a point;

THENCE South 18 degrees 46 minutes East a distance of Twelve and nine-tenths feet (12.9') to a point in the line of a picket fence running in a Westerly direction;

THENCE South 72 degrees 11 minutes West in and along the said fence a distance of One hundred and eighteen feet (118') to a point in the westerly limit of said Lot 2;

THENCE South 18 degrees 46 minutes East along the said Westerly limit a distance of Three hundred and sixty-six and five tenths feet (366.5') more or less to the Point of Commencement.

SECONDLY:

Beginning at a cut stone monument marking the south-westerly angle of said Lot 2;

THENCE north 71 degrees 26 minutes 20 seconds east along the southerly limit of said Lot 2 a distance of two hundred and ten and five tenths feet (210.5') to a point in the line of a wire fence running in a northerly direction and marking the easterly limit of the lands described in Instrument Number 17246 for the Township of Hope;

Schedule "A-4" - Page 2.

THENCE: North 18 degrees 53 minutes 40 seconds west in and along the said fence and the northerly production thereof a distance of three hundred and seventy-eight feet (378') to a stake marking the north-easterly angle of the lands described in said Instrument Number 17246.

This is the point of commencement of the lands to be described:

THENCE north 18 degrees 53 minutes 40 seconds west a distance of four hundred and fifty-five and two tenths feet (455.2') to a stake planted in the line of a wire fence running in a westerly direction and marking the north-westerly angle of the lands described in Instrument Number 1374 registered July 13, 1956, in the Registry Office for the East Riding of the County of Durham;

THENCE south 71 degrees 30 minutes west in and along the said fence

a distance of one hundred and three and one tenths feet (103.1') to

a point in the line of a wire fence running in a southerly direction;

THENCE south 17 degrees 55 minutes east in and along the last mentioned fence a distance of three hundred and twenty-seven and three tenths feet (327.3') to the line of a wire fence running in a westerly direction;

THENCE North 72 degrees 42 minutes east along the easterly production of the last mentioned fence a distance of forty-three and six tenths feet (43.6') to a stake;

THENCE south 18 degrees 53 minutes 40 seconds east a distance of one hundred and twenty-six and eight tenths feet to an iron bar planted in the northerly limit of the lands described in Instrument Number 17246 aforesaid;

THENCE north 71 degrees 14 minutes east along the said northerly limit

distance of sixty-five feet more or less to the point of commencement.

Reasons for the Designation of Ballintruan or St. Hugh's House
Ballintruan or St. Hugh's House is being designated for

architectural reasons.

Ballintruan is an excellent example of the later Victorial two-storey brick house of Port Hope, comprising extensive additions and alterations by John E. Bilcher, architect and chartered surveyor in 1879 to an earlier "building" already on the site, named Hillside Cottage. The owner at the time was Charles Stuart.

The house has a centr doorway, bay windows to the ground floor, segmental heads to windows above with a doorway to a balcony over the front verandah from the second floor. This central feature is essentially a pair of narrow round headed doors or French windows set into an opening with a centre lozenge, the whole device resulting in a Florentine window. Above, with a separate low pitched gable, above the main eaves, is a pair of round-headed attic windows. The roof frame of the house is a low pitched hip with centre flat deck, end chimneys, a projecting side wing to the rear, and a rear kitchen wing, both of two storeys. The brickwork is Flemish bond. The verandah remains but has been modified by the replacement of the original balustrades.

Inside the house and above the vestibule doors is situated the Stuart Coat of Arms. Another interior feature is the three panelled vaulted ceiling above the front staircase landing. This ceiling emphasizes an arched window (located in the north wall) of patterned opaque glass bordered by a band of red glass.

Ballintruan was the name of Charles Stuart's home in Scotland.

The initials C.S.J. are in the red glass panel over outside front door.

The property was owned by several generations of one-family for a period of 107 years ending in 1948. In March, 1955, the property was purchased for the Anglican Special School for Girls.

Schedule "A-5"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Port Hope, in the County of Durham, in the Province of Ontario and being composed of Part of Town Plot No. 6 according to the Stewart Plan of the said Town and which said parcel has an area of 1.06 acres and is shown in heavy outline on plan of survey attached hereto, described as follows:

PREMISING that the easterly limit of King Street has an assumed bearing North 22 degrees 36 minutes 40 seconds west derived from survey by J.L. Sylvester, O.L.S.

COMMENCING at a survey monument planted at the intersection of the easterly limit of King Street with the northerly limit of Dorset Street in the said Town.

THENCE North 2 degrees 36 minutes 40 seconds West along the easterly limit of King Street 184.0 feet to a survey monument.

THENCE North 77 degrees 22 minutes 40 seconds East 271.82 feet to a survey monument.

THENCE South 10 degrees 46 minutes 20 seconds East along the general line of a board fence 145.53 feet to a survey monument planted in the mortherly limit of Dorset Street.

THENCE South 70 degrees 32 minutes 20 seconds WSt along the northerly limit of Dorset Street 301.28 feet to the POINT OF COMMENCEMENT.

MORE PARTICULARLY shown on a Plan of Survey prepared by K. F. Lashley, O.I.S., and dated October 25, 1968 a copy of which is attached hereto as Page 2 of this schedule.

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1.3

PLAN

OF PART OF TOWN PLOT LOT Nº 6 STEWART PLAN

TOWN OF PORT HOPE

COUNTY OF DURHAM

SCALE 1"= 50"

Bearings are assumed and are referred to the north limit of Dorset Street from surveys by J.L Sylvester O.L.S.

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1897 N# N17055

21.K. Brice ...

AREA 1.06 ACRES

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N70"32"10"E : 301.28 STREET LINE

DORSET STREET

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

Hereby Certify That

Links survey and plan are correct and in accordance with the Survey's Act and the Registry Act and the regulations made thereunder

2. The survey was completed on the 18 day of October, 1968

Det 25/18

K.F. LASHLEY

ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR

COBCURG, ONTARIO

Schedule "B-5"

Reasons for the Designation of the "Helm House"

The "Helm House" is being designated for architectural reasons.

The house was built by Mr. Robert Charles Smith, a lumberman, and a son of John D. Smith, builder of the Bluestone. It was sold to John Henry Helm in 1884 for \$5,000.00. John Helm had built and operated machine shops and a foundry in Port Hope in 1849. His family previously lived in Belgrave (now Greenwood Tower), which was built in for them in 1866.

The two storey brick house is L-shaped in plan. Originally the structure was rectangular, but the Helms added the rear section in 1885. The building measures approximately 68 feet x 43 feet.

The house is basically a hip roof Regency Villa with a central hall plan. The main west facade is relieved by a central projection with a pedimental gable, and pilasters, articulating the south wall and each corner, enhance the mass and solidity of the structure. Decorative projecting header bricks under the wide eaves resemble dentils. The two tall brick chimneys on each side of the house are also ornamented with brick dentils and with recessed panels. An elaborate cast iron cresting surmounting the hipped roof further enlivens the skyline.

On the north wall, the cornice of a projecting alcove is decorated with ornamental carved brackets. A verandah spans the south side of the house and has eight-sided posts resting on panelled square bases, and carved details below the roofline.

A notable feature of the main facade, and a characteristic of the Regency-Gothic style, is the 4-centre ogival arches fanlight with fine gothic tracery, which sits in the pediment of the frontispiece.

The exterior entranceway on the projecting frontispiece is occupied by a large single leaf panelled door with moulded trim, and within the vestibule (and directly below the ogival fanlight) is the principal doorway consisting of panelled double doors with single etched glass panes in each. Surmounting the doors is a two-pane transom which rises to a 4-centre point. Moulded trim surrounds the door and transom.

The south walls have 7 6/6 double hung sash, and one entranceway on the rear extension. On the main (west) facade are 5 6/6 double hung sash, the main entrance, the ogival fanlight, and a bay window in the frontispiece consisting of 1 6/6, and 2 2/2 double hung sash. On the north walls are 5 6/6 double hung sash, and the projecting alcove with 2 1/1 double hung sash in the centre and 1 2/2 double hung sash on each side.

At the rear (east) of the house is a rectangular brick shed with a gable roof, and a gable peak on the side facing south, and decorative brick dentils.

The ground floor ceilings of the house are decorated with cornice mouldings especially deep in the dining-room - which also contains a moulded plaster
ceiling medallion. The cornice of the alcove projecting from the northwest parlour is embellished with ornate foliate plaster brackets. The
interior doors have five panels and moulded trim. Between the dining

Schedule "B-5" continued

room and the parlour is a set of folding doors consisting of four leafs. The two outer leafs are panelled, and attached to each of these is a 21-pane door.

The parlour and the living room each contain a fireplace with attractive cast iron coal grates and moulded marble mantelpieces.

The oak staircase in the front hall has turned balusters and newel post, and the rail ends in a comma shape over the newel. A caved design decorates the sides of the steps. The ground floor and a few second storey rooms have hardwood floors, and the remaining bedrooms are floored with wide pine planks.

The kitchen and pantry are decorated with three foot high wainscotting. Three of the doors opening into these rooms have six panels each, and the ceiling in the kitchen is composed of a decorative metal.

The grounds, which have a frontage of 184 feet along King Street and 301 feet along Dorset Street, are lined on the south and west sides with an iron fence which was presumably cast in the Helm Foundry.

Schedule "A-6"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Town of Port Hope, in the County of Northumberland, and Province of Ontario and being composed of Part of Lot 3, in theBroken Front Concession of the Township of Hope, now being part of the Town of Port Hope and being more particularly designated as Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 on a Reference Plan received and deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Port Hope (No. 9) as Plan 9R-782.

Schedule "B-6"

Reasons for the Designation of the Water Tower and the Facade of the main house of Greenwood Tower Inn

The facade of the main house and the water tower of Greenwood Tower Inn is being designated for architectural reasons.

The water tower was built in 1877 by the same person who had the main house built, John Helm. Originally, its purpose had been to supply the house and the then surrounding thirty acre estate with water. Five of these acres were irrigated by an underground piping system used to water lawns and gardens. In 1875, the tower was linked up to supply water to the town. The tower once served as a header tank for the town's first pressurized water system. A five thousand gallon wooden pressure vessel rested on the fourth level of this tower. In addition to the header system, a storage tank was built over the attic of the mansion. Whenever the tower water level went down, a cantilever device automatically switched over to the attic tank.

The equipment once used for the system, most of which had been imported from England, has disappeared - old steam engine pump and all.

The water tower is four storeys high made entirely of original bricks kilned on the estate property. The first three levels have large rectangular windows. Some windows are fenced in by elaborate wrought iron balustrades which came from the nearby iron foundry owned by Mr. Helm. The uppermost level of the tower has circular spoked windows set back within decorative light coloured brickwork. The glass windowpanes themselves (some still original) are also said to have been made on the property. For a finishing touch of English grace, the tower is crowned with a green gabled roof with a widow's walk. Inside the tower, there is a wooden spiral staircase which winds its way up to the fourth level. The well beneath the tower, which is brick lined all the way down, was some seventy five feet deep and about ten feet in diameter.

The main house is a two storey brick building of Italianate style. This building has been moderated somewhat since it was originally built. The facade contains a number of significant architectural features. The lower floor consists of the entrance-way and two front bay windows. The iron foundry, owned by Mr. Helm, provided the cast iron balustrades over the front entrance and in fact, all the great amount of cast iron work over the two front bay windows as well as the widow's walk. There is a good example of a semi-elliptical window over the front entrance. It is of the Florentine pattern. Another interesting point is the unusual width of the overhanging eaves with their double brackets.