



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE
ACT, 1974, S.O. CHAPTER 122

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES
AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS(ES) IN
THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

RECEIVED
JUL - 0 1983
ONTARIO HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

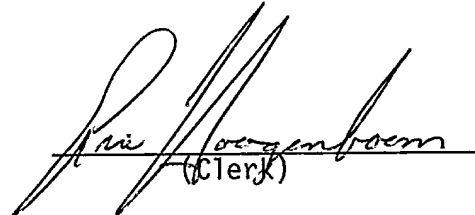
To: Ontario Heritage Foundation
77 Bloor Street west
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott intends to designate the properties, including lands and buildings at the following municipal addresses as properties of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S.O. Chapter 122.

See Attached

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Prescott before the 29th day of July, 1983.

Dated at Prescott this 29th day of June, 1983.


(Clerk)

- (a) The Albert Whitney House
440 Dibble Street, West, Prescott
Plan 19, Block 3, Lots 27 & 28

- (b) The Duffy Hotel
159 King Street, East, Prescott
Plan 19, Block 2, Lot 1

- (c) The Stern Building
115 King Street, west
Plan 19, Block 2, Part Lot 6

(A)

THE ALBERT WHITNEY HOUSE

Reasons for designation

The House was built by Albert Whitney, a prominent Prescott business man associated with the J.P. Wiser distillery, one of the important town business enterprises of the late 19th and early 20th century.

The house is a good example of the two-story Victorian town dwelling erected by prosperous business men of that time period.

It also plays an important part in the streetscape of that part of the north side of Dibble Street.

(B)

The Duffy Hotel

Reason for Designation

In 1839, Sylvester Duffy, a grocer and former labourer purchased the east half of Lot 1, south side of King Street for the sum of 62 pounds.

It had only been 29 years since Edward Jessup had laid out the town and only five years since Prescott had been incorporated yet the Town was growing rapidly. New businesses were opening almost weekly to take advantage of the booming river forwarding trade in Prescott.

In the late 1840's, Duffy received a Tavern Licence and he established a small shop on his lot.

By 1851, Prescott was a large town by Upper Canadian standards. In that year, a Fire Company was established, plank side walks were built, the Market Building was started, the Sand Hills' Road (Edward Street) begun, and a railway linking Prescott to Bytown was planned.

To take advantage of the expected boom brought on by the railway, Duffy expanded his shop into a full-fledged tavern. His building adjoining Thomas Torrs' bakery was expanded and the whole developed into a commercial block.

The Duffy block continued in use as Tavern and Bakery throughout the 19th century. In 1868, following Duffy's death, the Tavern

was sold to James Dunn. Dunn made several improvements, adding shop fronts to the dressed limestone facade on the North face of the block.

By the turn of the Century, the hotel was operated by Albert Ryan who had renamed the establishment "'St. Lawrence Hall.'" Thomas Torr's Bakery also continued to operate, now under the ownership of James Tyrie.

By the early 20th century, Prescott's boom period had ended. This factor combined with a growing temperance movement forced several Taverns to close. Duffy's, or "'the Globe'" or "'St. Lawrence Hall'" as it was variously known, was one of the businesses effected. By 1917, the building had become a boarding house. Later, it was divided into apartments and continues to serve this function.

As a tangible illustration of the evolution of commercial growth in Prescott, the structure should be preserved. Although there have been many changes to the structure over the years, it remains, essentially, a 19th century building. This character should be maintained.

Architectural Features

The building is composed of four separately built sections each with similar building materials, wall heights, roof slopes and window openings but with different details reflecting the evolution of the block. The eastern portion is also stuccoed on the east and south faces.

Inside, some original features including original bake ovens are extant.

With restoration, the building would be a handsome showpiece, a study of local period building techniques. The basic structure, the stone work, and original features should be preserved.

(C)

Designation Report of IACAC of Prescott.

Building: the facade of the Stern building

Location: 111 King Street East

Date of Report: 20 June 1983

Prepared by: R. Dales and G. Swoger

A. Reasons for Designation:

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee recommends that the facade of the Stern building be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, for the following historical and architectural reasons:

1. The Stern building was a fine example of a mid-Victorian commercial building dating from the early 1870's, a period when Prescott was experiencing a very significant period of growth.

2. The Stern building was the easternmost of three commercial buildings constructed according to the same basic design. Because the three buildings blend together into one harmonious whole, it is extremely important to preserve the facade of this building which was gutted by fire early in 1983.

3. The preservation of the facade of this building is most important to the streetscape of the downtown business district of Prescott.

B. Historical Background:

The facade of the Stern building is an excellent example of mercantile architecture dating from the 1870's, the heyday of Prescott's building boom. The building was erected in 1874 by James Baines to house his drug store. It was built to blend with the downtown business blocks already erected by Marcus Keilty and Irwin Boyd in 1871 and 1874 respectively. All three follow the same basic design in the new Italianate style, but each has subtle differences. Each of the buildings is three storeys high, three bays wide, and has round headed windows and a bracketed wooden cornice. The Keilty store is faced with ashlar limestone; the Boyd building with red brick; and the Baines building with ashlar limestone, matching the Keilty block to the west. The keystones over the windows in Mr. Baines building spell out his initials JJB. These three store fronts provide an excellent example of the Victorian preference for changes in colour, texture and design within the same composition. They combine to form one of the most satisfying group of Victorian stores remaining on King Street." In 1878 the Canadian Illustrated News described the building as a fine block which would do credit to any city.

1. Report on Prescott's Historic Buildings prepared by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Early in 1983 the Stern building was badly damaged by fire. The Italianate facade, however, remains intact, much as it was when the building was completed for James Baines in 1874. As one section of three beautifully integrated buildings, this facade should be preserved to blend with the other two store fronts and maintain the appearance of that part of the south side of King Street.

C. Architectural Description:

The ashlar limestone facade is built in classical Italianate style with three round headed windows whose keystones bear the initials JJB of the original owner, the druggist, James Baines.