



10, 12, 14 Bond Street West

City of Oshawa

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August 2007

10-14 Bond Street West, OSHAWA, ONTARIO

I. LOCATION

This building is located on the south side of Bond Street West, west of Simcoe Street and east of Prince Street at 10-14 Bond Street West. It is now registered as Plan H50002, Pts 1-4, 40R14539 within the City of Oshawa.

II. EARLY LOT HISTORY

According to the land registry documents and Historic Sketches of Oshawa, Lot 11, Concession 2 was patented by Mrs. Elizabeth Gray on August 10, 1798. Elizabeth Gray was a Loyalist, the wife of Colonel James Gray. Colonel James Gray had served in the British Army for over 40 years, he died around 1796. After Elizabeth died the land was inherited by her son, Robert Isaac Dey Gray. He was a Solicitor General of Upper Canada. In October 1804, Gray attended the trial of an Ojibwa named Ogetonicut who was charged with the murder of a white settler in the Newcastle District named John Sharp. Gray, Ogetonicut and 18 other people were aboard the Speedy on October 7, 8 or 9, 1804 when the ship sank off of Presqu'isle Point. Gray's land was transferred to his slave, John Baker. Subsequent owners included Jabez Lynde in 1813 and 200 acres were owned by John Kerr in 1816. In 1829 Mr. Kerr sold these 200 acres to James Hall who in turn sold to John Borlese Warren in 1836. In 1841, J.B Warren sold 7 lots (divided into ¼ and ½ acre lots) to as many buyers along King and Bond Streets in 1837.

In the 1886 Vindicator (local newspaper) contains advertisements for two businesses that were located on Bond Street (no significant address was addressed in the ad). These businesses were J. Craig – Buggies, Sleighs and Wagons Repaired and J & T Kirbey, General Painters who specialized in painting carriages but were expanding their business to other areas of painting.

The Assessment Roll for the Village of Oshawa in 1896 and 1905 identifies the following individuals/merchants on lot 2: Joseph Craig, a carriage maker and Mrs. Pine (widow) was a tenant in 1898.

The Assessment Roll for the Village of Oshawa in 1911 identifies the following individuals/merchants on lot 2: Joseph Craig, a carriage maker (owner) and tenants David Doig, pool room and William Drew, a painter.

The Insurance Plan of Oshawa, surveyed in 1904, identifies Pool Room Storage at #10 and the back portion of #14 indicates carriage shop storage.

Vernon's City of Oshawa Directories from 1921 – 1938, identify various businesses in #10 and #14 throughout the years. The 1921 Vernon City of Oshawa Directory shows that Joseph Craig in #16 Bond, which is located west of this particular building.

The Insurance Plan for the City of Oshawa for 1948 indicates a furniture shop (Topp's Furniture Company) at #10 and a barber shop at #14.

Currently the Diamond Grill Restaurant is located at #10 and #14 is vacant, although it appears that the Diamond Grill Restaurant is expanding into the #14.

III. INDIVIDUALS/OWNERS/COMPANY SIGNIFICANCE

Joseph Craig Carriage Shop

Joseph Craig came to Oshawa in 1844. At first he worked for J.D. Hoitt in the Munroe Factory and worked for many years at the Hoitt and Currie(y) Carriage Shops, that were located on the north-east corner of King and Simcoe Streets, prior to 1855. Joseph Craig with his brother Hercules Craig and the Hepburn brothers purchased the Hoit and Currie Business in 1856. They erected a factory on Bond Street in 1866.¹

D.J. Doig – Billiard and Pool Parlour

D.J Doig conducted his billiard and pool business on Bond Street in Oshawa. The Manchester of Canada states “it was known as one of the most complete billiard and pool parlours in the Province”².

Mr. Doig had billiard parlours in Belleville, Uxbridge, Stouffville and Ottawa and in each one many of the leading citizens gather to play or watch. “His rooms are first class and the cues, balls are as good as can be got and the attendance is at all times prompt and courteous.”³ Mr. Doig was known as a genial and popular man.

IV. ARCHITECTURE

Style and Construction Date

The building known municipally as 10, 12, & 14 Bond Street West was constructed c.1870 in the Italianate style. This style was popular during the 1850’s and 60’s. Italianate buildings are recognized by their decorated cornice, flat roof and arched window headings. This building is an excellent example of an Italianate commercial block. The features of this building are exaggerated which can be seen in the ornamental cornice, ornate hood moulds, dentil brick details and the dichromatic patterning.

The building known as 10, 12 and 14 Bond Street West appears to have been constructed as one although when viewing the north façade it appears there are double brick false walls between each section. These can be seen from the back of the building – making it appear as if they may be separate buildings. Although when looking at the building from the south façade it appears as one.

This is a mixed-use building – on the street level is a restaurant and most likely there are apartments on the upper level. The building is divided into bays, the two commercial with three windows and the central, smaller bay, for apartment access. Although it appears that the central entrance may have been moved, since there most likely was an entranceway located centrally where the arched hood mould is located on the street level. The street level has undergone considerable changes.

Across the top of the building is a highly decorative dentilled brick cornice with another diamond-like brick course row and above the windows is a simple dentilled brick course. This brickwork was most likely a lighter or darker brick that contrasted

with the brick on the rest of the building, which would have created a dichromatic effect that is currently being achieved with the contrasting paint colours.

Windows

The façade faces south onto Bond Street. The building contains segmentally arched sash window openings with concrete lugsills. Dichromatic effects are created by the contrasting colours and materials found in the segmentally arched hood moulds with keystone accents and label stops over the second storey windows. The window openings are separated vertically by raised bricks. A lunette is found above each window opening, although this is just a design – originally these may have been windows.

The windows have been replaced although they are sympathetic in size to the original windows.

Masonry

The structure was most likely cladded in patterned brick, although the brick has been painted over and contrasting paint colours have been used to create a dichromatic effect.

V. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This downtown commercial block is an excellent example of the Italianate style. The Italianate features of this building are exaggerated and the motifs are repeated several times across the building. Notable features of this building are the ornamental cornice, decorative hood moulds, dentil brick details and dichromatic patterns created by the paint colours. The brick has been painted over although the paint colours used are sympathetic in design (the contrasting colours), which maintains the dichromatic pattern – that may have been achieved originally by the use of patterned brickwork.

This downtown commercial block is being lovingly restored by its current owners and it is an architecturally significant landmark in Oshawa's downtown dating from the mid to late nineteenth century. Further research may be required to determine who built the building. (Portions of the Land Registry Documents were illegible/missing)

ENDNOTES

¹ Pedlar Papers. There is a possibility that this business was located at #10 Bond Street, based on assessment rolls and insurance plans for the Village of Oshawa. Therefore the building known currently as #10, #12 and #14 Bond Street West may have been built in circa 1866.

² Oshawa Illustrated. The Manchester of Canada. 1911

³ Ibid.

APPENDICES



1. 10-14 Bond Street West, North Façade – June 2007



2. 10-14 Bond Street West, South Façade – June 2007

SOURCES

Blumenson, John. *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the Present*. Toronto 1990.

Conveyances Abstract. Durham Regional Land Registrar's Office, Whitby.

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Insurance Plan of Oshawa, Ontario. C.E. Goad, surveyed April 1904. Revised December 1916.

Oshawa, Ontario plan dated January 1938. Dominion Fire Surveys Toronto.

Oshawa Subject File. Oshawa Community Archives

Oshawa Illustrated. Oshawa: The Reformer Printing and Publishing Company, Ltd., 1911.

Oshawa Vindicator, March 1886

Pedlar Papers, Oshawa Community Archives