

Appendix A

Heritage Designation Brief



The Courthouse Precinct

Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

December 2020

Heritage Designation Status Sheet

Street Address: 470 Water Street

Roll Number: 040100042000000

Legal Description: LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 S OF
MURRAY & E OF WATER
ST(PETERBOROUGH); LOTS 1, 2, 3,
4, 5, 6 & PT LT 7 ALL N OF
BROCK ST & E OF WATER ST
(PETERBOROUGH), AS IN A15091
EXCEPT PART 4 PL 45R2345;
PETERBOROUGH

PT LT 8 S OF MURRAY ST & E OF
WATER ST PL 1 TOWN OF
PETERBOROUGH, PT DICKSON ST
PL 1 TOWN OF
PETERBOROUGH CLOSED BY BY-
LAW R381873 PTS 2 & 3 45R4167;
S/T R404696 ASSIGNED BY
PE335490
ASSIGNED BY PE335491
PETERBOROUGH CITY

PACAC Application Review Date: December 10, 2020

Heritage Type: Heritage Designation

Designation Type: Ontario Heritage Act – Part IV

Designation Brief Completion Date: December 2020

Designation Brief Completed by: Erik Hanson & Jennifer Guerin

Comments:

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The subject property has been researched and evaluated in order to determine its cultural heritage significance under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* R.S.O. 1990. A property is eligible for designation if it has physical, historical, associative or contextual value and meets **any one** of the nine criteria set out under Regulation 9/06 of the Act. Staff have determined that the Courthouse Precinct has cultural heritage value or interest and merits designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

1. The property has design value or physical value because it:

- i. **is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method:**

The Courthouse Precinct is an excellent representative and early example of the administrative and judicial complexes constructed in the districts of Upper Canada, typically consisting of a courthouse and jail fronting on common greenspace. The Peterborough Courthouse is an early example of a Neo-classical and Regency style administration building built using local stone with unusually refined embellishments, including cut stone quoins and window surrounds tooled by local masons and added at the direction of the chief justice during construction. The Jail layout is representative of early Upper Canada jail construction, and in its reduced form as an interpretive park still presents a stark depiction of the harsh conditions of incarceration in 19th century Ontario, with cramped, narrow cells and imposing perimeter stone walls.

- ii. **displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:**

The structures on the property display a high degree of craftsmanship. There is a high degree of artistic merit in the intact interior details of the two original courtrooms, millwork in public areas of the Courthouse, and the interior and exterior features of the south wing designed by Eberhard Zeidler including the Registry Office and County Council Chambers.

- iii. **demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement:**

There are no specific technical or scientific achievements associated with the subject property.

2. The property has historical value or associative value because it:

- i. **has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community:**

The subject property has direct associations with a number of themes, people, organizations, and activities which are important to the community. These include, but are not limited to: The establishment of Peterborough as the District Town for the District of Colborne in 1838 and the resulting Crown Grant for the construction of the Courthouse and Courthouse Square (later Victoria Park); the development of parkland in Peterborough and Upper Canada; 19th century community recreation and social interaction; the Courthouse as an early example of courthouse architecture in Ontario with two intact historic courtrooms; one of the earliest courthouses to be constructed in Ontario; the remnants of a typical Upper Canada jail design; associations with prominent Peterborough architects over a span of over 100 years whose designs are still reflected in the buildings and landscape today.

ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture:

The subject property yields information about Peterborough's role within the region of Colborne District as the judicial seat; the architectural style that was favoured at the time and Peterborough's association with early Upper Canada architects; the prominent location of the courthouse set well back from the street overlooking an expansive greenspace as a way to use landscape to evoke a sense of authority, permanence and justice within the community; how the precinct's use over time reflects the community's values, social norms and demographics. Its establishment in what was the historic centre of town is also significant for the influence it had on the early settlement in Peterborough.

iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community:

The original design of the Courthouse demonstrates the work of architect Joseph Scobell, who was also involved in the construction of the Frontenac County Courthouse and Registry Office in Kingston, Ontario (now a National Historic Site). He also constructed St. John's Anglican Church to the south west of the Courthouse in 1834-35. Other prominent architects involved in later additions and renovations to the buildings on the site and landscaping and construction in Victoria Park include John Belcher, known for his work on many of Peterborough's most prominent buildings, William Blackwell, one of Peterborough's prominent architects of the late nineteenth century and early 20th century, and Eberhard Zeidler, internationally renowned German-born modernist architect who trained at the Bauhaus.

3. The property has contextual value because it:

i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area:

The precinct is an integral component to one of the oldest areas of settlement in the City. It is important in defining the character of the area as the original

administrative and social centre of Peterborough along with early schools and churches. As a judicial facility dating back to the early nineteenth century, it is a tangible part of the history of the development of Upper Canada. The Courthouse Precinct maintains a prominent position overlooking Victoria Park and is in close proximity to other important buildings nearby including the Quaker Oats Factory to the east, former Carnegie Library, St. John's Anglican Church, and the former Central School.

ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings

The property is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings as a precinct of judicial buildings constructed as a requirement for fulfilling its duty as the District Town of the Colborne District. The precinct contains a Courthouse, jail, registry office, caretaker's residence, and expansive public park, once known as Courthouse Park. The stone used to construct the Courthouse was quarried locally from Jackson Park. Local masons hand-tooled the window surrounds and quoins. Victoria Park's layout is typical of Victorian-era landscape design, taking full advantage of its and position to offer commanding views of the Courthouse complex.

iii. is a landmark. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (2).

The Courthouse Precinct is a landmark due to its age, construction materials, and prominent position on a hill overlooking Victoria Park. The viewshed of the Courthouse and park from Water Street is unchanged since the time of its construction. As one of Peterborough's first institutional buildings, fronting on one of the town's first public green spaces, the precinct is significant to the local community.

Courthouses of Upper Canada

On October 15, 1792 the first Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada concluded its inaugural session. During the four-week session, bills were passed that established English law as the basis for all legislation in the colony, established basic rights of redress and divided the original districts of Upper Canada into 12 counties each. The area that would become Peterborough was originally part of the Home District from which was created the Newcastle District in 1798 and finally the Colborne District in 1838 (the Colborne District would become Peterborough County in 1850 and in 1862 the County would be again divided to create Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton Counties and the map as it stands today was complete). The act creating counties within the redrawn district structure also required the erection of a jail and courthouse in each district. With the creation of the Colborne District, Peterborough was named the district town and immediately the magistrates began preparing for the construction of the required buildings.

The Courthouse Precinct

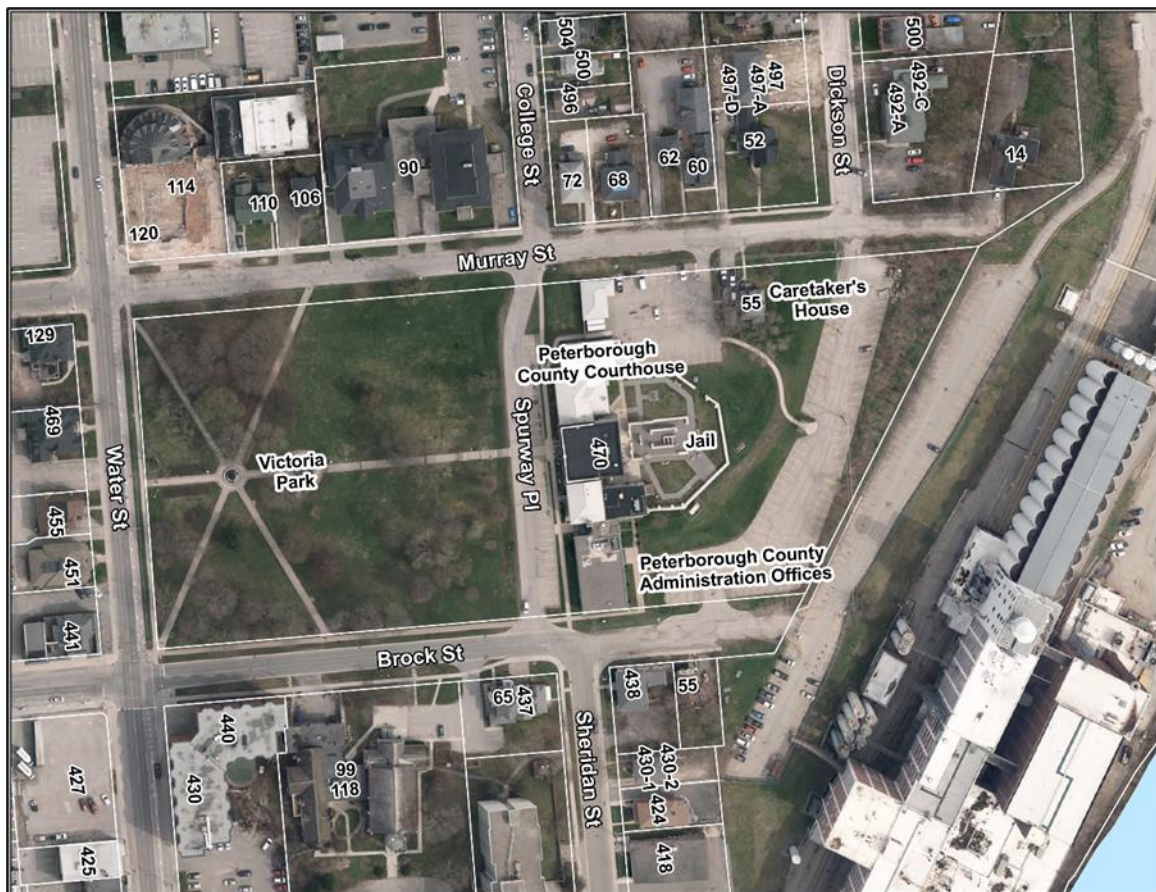
The Courthouse Precinct consists of several interrelated built elements whose construction spans the 19th and 20th centuries. The original form and function of the precinct remains unchanged. The precinct is composed of the following built elements:

- The Courthouse, which has been in continuous use since its completion in 1840, now functioning as the Peterborough County Courthouse and Registry Office
- The South Wing housing County offices;
- Remnants of the Jail, now an interpretive park;
- The 1930 Caretaker's House to the northeast of the Courthouse, and;
- Victoria Park with its associated landscaping and fixtures including an ornamental fountain.

Together these elements represent the development of Peterborough as the judicial centre of the District of Colborne in the early development of Upper Canada and the County of Peterborough today. Each component also reflects the various architectural trends and design theories dominant at the time of their construction. The precinct exhibits a cohesive layout in its urban setting and has been accessible to the community as a public space since its development. It is a significant landmark and influenced the development of the surrounding residential neighbourhood. The buildings and site have evolved over time, but the

additions and modifications are an important physical representation of the history of the community as it developed over time.

The property also has physical value through its natural elements most specifically in Victoria Park, (originally known as the Courthouse Square) including the mature trees, lawns and other aspects of the landscape which was formally developed by the Horticultural Society in the 1880s, in a style typical of landscape design of the period.

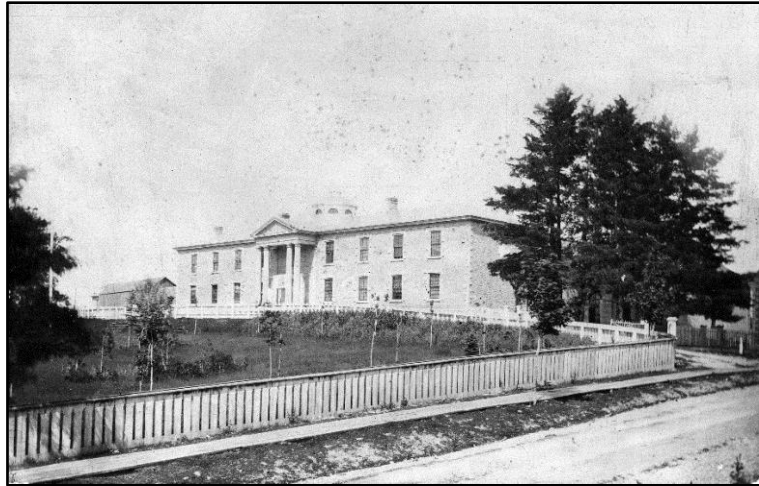


1 Map showing Courthouse Precinct

Design and Physical Value

The Courthouse Precinct reflects the popular architectural style at the time Upper Canada was being settled and the architectural styles at the time of each subsequent renovation. It is an excellent example of courthouse architecture, and one of the oldest courthouses in Ontario. The relationship between the Courthouse and Jail structure is representative of courthouse and jail design between the 1850s-1870s in Upper Canada and can be seen in jurisdictions across Ontario including Perth and Lanark County, Picton, London, Owen Sound, and others.

In 1838, Peterborough was chosen as the District Town for Colborne District and the site for the Colborne District Courthouse & Jail was chosen by Jordan Reed, the public land surveyor at the time, and identified as lots 5,6 and 7, a rise of land east of Water Street. There was much discussion regarding the site, and it was finally chosen for its central location. The vacant land facing Water Street would form “Courthouse Square”, allowing the Courthouse to occupy a commanding view. The lands of Victoria Park were granted through a special act of Parliament. An excerpt from the 1858 Directory of the Town of Peterborough described the site:



2 Peterborough County Courthouse c. 1850.

“Near the centre of the town stands the Knoll, upon which is erected the courthouse. In front of the building is a reservation of 6 acres, which is appropriated as a public park for the use of the town.”

This idea of shared public green space within a city was a new concept being explored in the United Kingdom in response to the social conditions of the poor and working classes in industrialized urban centres and demonstrates the influence of early British settlers on the development of Peterborough. The park, one of Peterborough’s first green spaces for public use, proved itself useful in the town’s early years as a critical anchor and gathering place.

The Courthouse

The cornerstone for the Colborne District Courthouse was laid in 1838 and by 1840 the building was complete. The original courthouse was designed by Joseph Scobell, a Devonshire born builder, who immigrated to Canada in the late 1820s with a group of architects from the same area who would



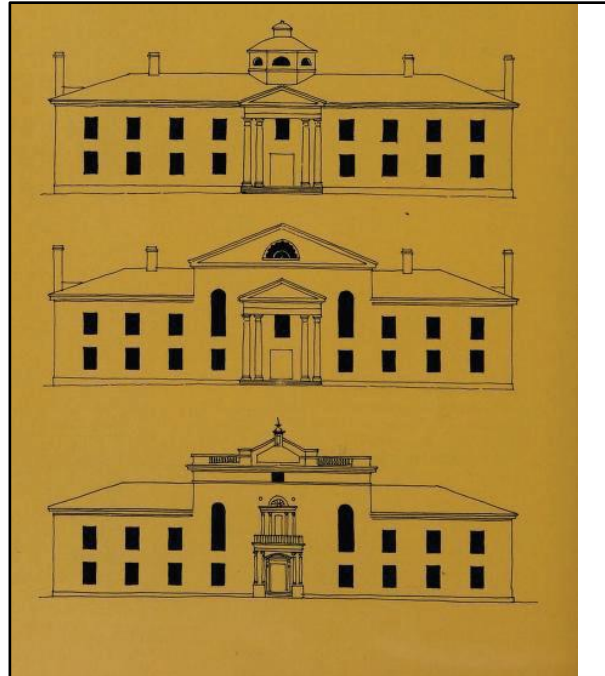
3 Sketch of Peterborough Courthouse from the Diary of Sir Sandford Fleming, 1846

all go on to establish themselves in Upper Canada. The group included Edward Horsey, who was responsible for the design and construction of the Frontenac County Courthouse in Kingston, with Scobell's help, and John Power who also designed and constructed many important institutional buildings, mostly in the Kingston area.

Scobell started his career in Montreal, Quebec and by 1834, he was living in Ontario and had begun work on St. John's Anglican Church in Peterborough. St. John's was built to the plans of prominent Toronto architect John G. Howard, who was

one of the first professional architects of Upper Canada, responsible for constructing several of the Province's early public

buildings. Many of these were completed in the Regency style which was popular during his career in England. Howard has been credited for bringing the style to Canada in the 1830s.



4 Schematic drawing of the evolution of the Peterborough County Courthouse design.

The Courthouse building was constructed from stone quarried from what is now Jackson Park, and was one of the first permanent institutional buildings to be constructed in Peterborough. Joseph Scobell's design featured Classical Revival and Georgian elements defined by the symmetrical layout and restrained simple details, a central cupola and pedimented portico with Ionic columns. The design was meant to evoke order and emphasize the importance of the business conducted within. The window surrounds were all hand tooled by local masons, as were the decorative quoins; both additions specifically requested by the building committee and not part of Scobell's original design. The result was an impressive, solid edifice on fine high ground overlooking the growing town.

Since its construction, the Courthouse has been renovated three times, but it retains its original form and massing. In 1878-79, renovations to the main Courtroom were made to the designs of John Belcher the prominent Peterborough architect and Town Engineer. Belcher designed many of Peterborough's most prominent public buildings including the Market Hall, the former Carnegie Library, The Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School and The Commerce Building. The renovations came after a call by the Grand Jury to improve air circulation and lighting for the courtroom. Belcher's design called for the removal of the cupola to raise the roof considerably, adding four

skylights and a large fanlight which provided more light and a higher ceiling for the courtroom.

These renovations also included an expansion of the courtroom, extending the walls back into the jail yard and expanding the space to allow for a seating area in addition to the gallery overlooking the court. The renovations included extensive wood detailing in oak, including seats for the juries arranged in a semi-circle, the Judge's dais and screen, featuring dentil details and hand carved scales of justice. The prisoner's box was relocated to the centre of the, room slightly raised and featuring carved rosettes. The Daily Evening Review in its April 15, 1879 edition enthused that the renovations to the room were so well executed that:

"...the dismay experienced by a prisoner at being sentenced to jail, will be relieved – if it can be relieved at all – by having the job done amidst such pleasant surroundings". It was acclaimed on a number of occasions to be one of the finest court rooms in the province.



5 Courthouse c. 1884.

In December of 1916 the Quaker Oats explosion and fire destroyed dozens of the surrounding buildings and the Courthouse suffered extensive damage. The roof collapsed, heavily damaging the central portion of the building. Architect William Blackwell, one of Peterborough's leading architects of the time, won the contract to design and reconstruct the damaged



areas of the Courthouse. The renovations included the

6 Courthouse c. 1917

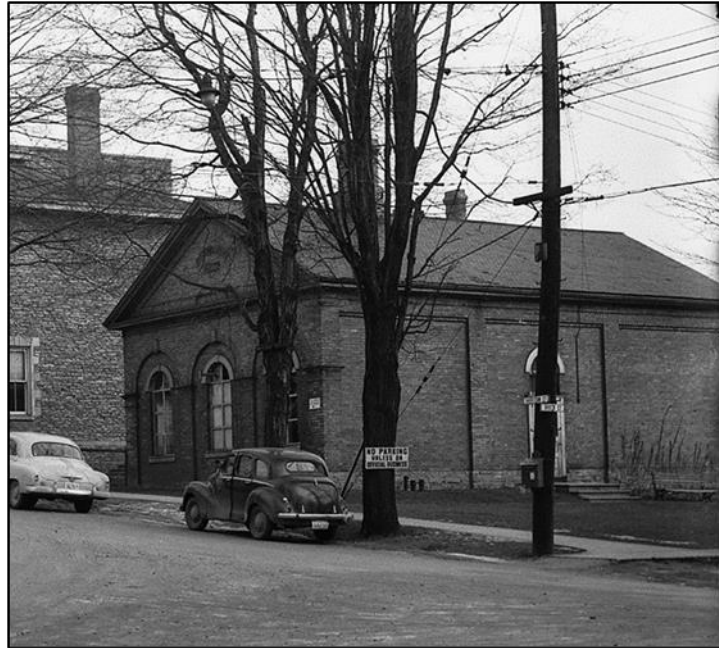
replacement of the gable roof with a flat one featuring a boxed cornice with decorative dentil details, a frieze and a decorative parapet and balustrade along

the top. The front pediment was also badly damaged and replaced with the current iteration, with paired columns and entrance portico with a flat roof and balustrades. An addition to the north end of the original courthouse was constructed between 1927-1929 by architect James Finnie.

The South Wing

In 1863 a registry office was constructed to the south of the Courthouse. Designed to be completely fireproof and entirely separate from the courthouse it included cast iron fittings and masonry barrel vaults. In 1959 the registry office was demolished and the Peterborough firm of Craig and Zeidler was commissioned to construct a new wing which would house the Registry Office, County offices and new council chambers. The work is an excellent example of Modernist design which

rejected extraneous ornamentation in building design in favour of the belief that that the building's function should dictate its design. Eberhard Zeidler also recognized however that the new wing would need to harmonize with the Courthouse so the addition uses a rubblestone cladding to tie the two buildings together visually while at the same time clearly displaying its modern roots through corner and ribbon windows, an expressed concrete frame, limestone banding and a copper clad box cornice. As a result, the new south wing of the Courthouse has a clean, uncluttered appearance with an emphasis on horizontal lines that complement the restrained classicism of the



7 Original Registry Office, 1953



8 South Wing, 2020

Courthouse itself. The building has a glass and metal entry and retains many original design features including the Council Chambers and main stairwell.

Eberhard Zeidler, whose professional career began in Peterborough is among the most celebrated modern architects in Canada. His work in Peterborough has made the city a destination for scholars of modern

design. Zeidler relocated his offices to Toronto in 1963 and the firm has become internationally renowned for its works including the McMaster Health Sciences Centre in Hamilton, the Toronto Eaton Centre, Ontario Place, and hundreds of commissions world- wide.



9 County Council Chambers, 2020

The Jail

The County jail was an important institution in Upper Canada. Completed in 1842, the Gaol for the District of Colborne was closely associated with the social history of Peterborough and its design reflects the societal attitudes towards crime and punishment in Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries. The landscape of the Courthouse Precinct itself would have projected a sense of law and order to the young settlement, presiding as it did over a growing social hub that included Central School, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, St. John's Anglican Church, George Street Methodist just beyond and in the distance, the spire of St. Peter in Chains Roman Catholic Church, rising slightly higher than the courthouse itself.

At the urging of prison reformers, in 1779 British Parliament passed the Penitentiary Act which sought to replace capital punishment and transportation to the colonies with long periods of incarceration. To do this, the Act introduced the concept of a state prison system for the first time. It also sought to make

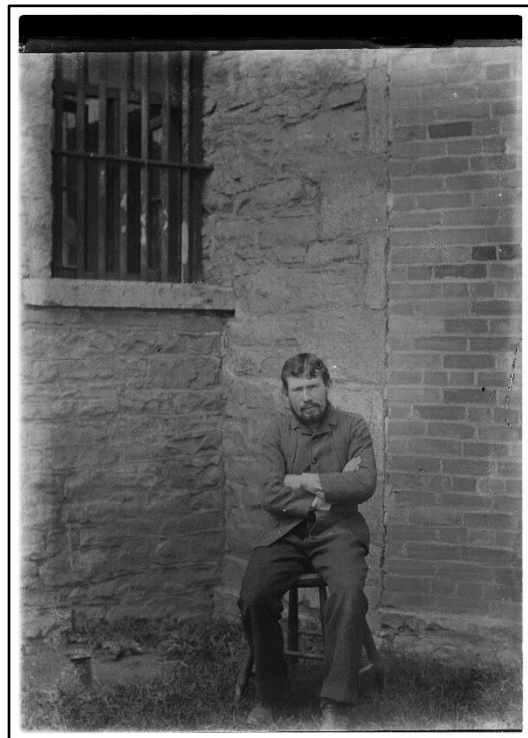


10 Mid 20th Century Aerial View of Courthouse and Jail

incarceration a time of personal reform: “not only of deterring others from the Commission of the like Crimes, but also reforming the Individuals, and inuring them to Habits of Industry”. The criminal code of Upper Canada was also redrafted between 1831 and 1833 at which time the list of capital offences was reduced from over 300 to twelve. Revisions to the code also allowed for sentences for more serious crimes to be carried out in provincial jails. These changes gave rise to the concept of the penitentiary - large centralized institutions with paid staff and which could accommodate labour programs both as revenue generators, and as mechanisms of reform. In 1835, Kingston Penitentiary was constructed as the central jail for Upper Canada and was designed based on an emerging theory of criminal reform known as the Auburn Correctional Philosophy, or “Auburn Plan”, which was gaining favour at the time.

In keeping with these changes, in 1862 the Peterborough County Grand Jury ordered the County to erect a more suitable jail structure to enable the sheriff and jailer to classify the inmates in accordance with this new philosophy for jail and prison construction and management. The Auburn Plan, developed in at the Auburn Penitentiary in Auburn, New York, theorized that reform could be achieved through a combination of principles including silence, isolation, religious training and hard labour which would in turn develop personal discipline and a respect for hard work and authority. Inmates were classified for segregation based on their age and the gravity of their offences to improve their chances of successful reform and to prevent further negative influences from other prisoners.

This philosophy was adopted in Peterborough, where in 1863 the Weekly Review published a statement of the Grand Jury’s concerns that “[criminals]...too frequently come forth from gaol far more depraved than when committed to prison,” It was believed that the principles of the Auburn Plan, when enforced on rational inmates, would make them aware of the cost of their criminal behaviour and lead them to want to reform. Although criticized for its severity, the Auburn System would remain the standard of correctional institution operations both in the United States and Canada from the mid-nineteenth century until about 1930.



11 Unidentified Prisoner, c. 1900-1910

In September of 1863 plans were unveiled for a new jail, to the design of T. F. Nicholl the County engineer, working with the provincial government’s prison architect, H. H. Horsey, who designed several county jails in Upper Canada. The

new jail was to be larger and connected directly to the Courthouse, according to plans approved by the Board of Inspectors of Prisons in Quebec City. Construction began in June of 1864 and the new jail was completed the following year. The walls were raised, and the main entrance to the jail was from a single entrance from the Courthouse. Following the Kingston Penitentiary concept of an administrative pavilion fronting a cellblock of back to back, narrow cells, Peterborough's jail was comprised of a rectangular two-storey structure with a truncated hip roof and carried over the Regency style features of the courthouse. A high, five-sided stone wall enclosed the exercise yard to the east of the main block. The new design also included residences for the sheriff and jail keeper. The newspapers of the day reported that the jail was considered "a top jail" in terms of convenience, appearance, or substantiality", surpassing even those in Toronto and Lindsay.

While the Penitentiary Act and subsequent prison reforms sought to curtail the use of capital punishment, there were five recorded hangings at the Peterborough jail between 1873 and 1933:

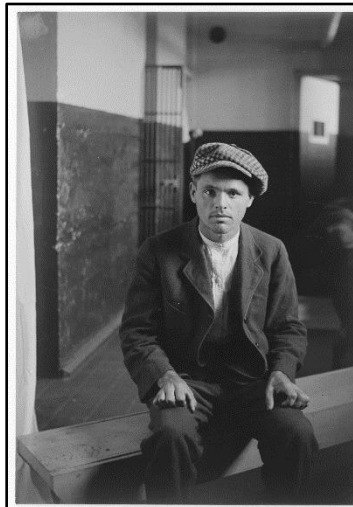
William Brenton aka James Fox on December 26, 1873 for the deaths of Jane Payne and her son;

Robert Henderson on June 23, 1910 for the murder of a Norwood woman;

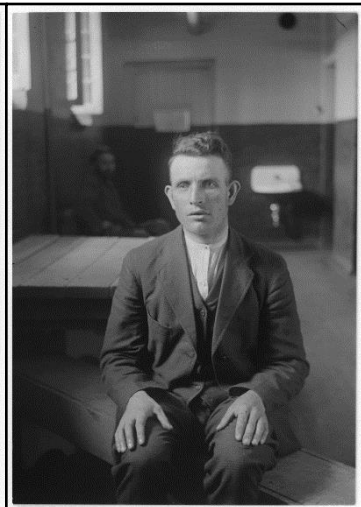
Michael Bahry and Thomas Konyk on January 14, 1920 for the shooting of Philip Yanoff during a robbery near Havelock;

Edward Franklin Jackson on November 29, 1933 for shooting Eugene Lee in a property dispute.

Four of the hanging victims were buried in graves within the jail walls but the fifth, 17 year old Robert Henderson (reputed to be the youngest hanging victim in Canada at the time), whom church clergy insisted had repented in the moments before his death, was allowed to be buried in Little Lake Cemetery where the Peterborough Times on June 24th reported that his grave was, "literally covered out of sight by boquets [sic] and other floral emblems." In 1995 the remains of four hanging victims were recovered during an archaeological excavation in the prison yard.



12 Michael Bahry



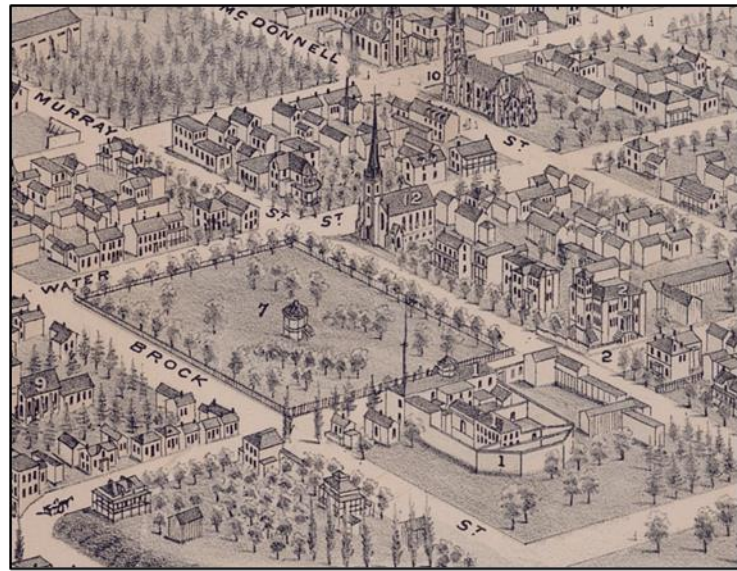
13 Tom Konek

Victoria Park

On November 5th, 1847 the crown granted the three acres of land that fronted the new Courthouse to the “Council of the District of Colborne their successors and assigns forever in trust solely for a public square subject nevertheless to the conditions of enclosing the plantings the same in the said Town of Peterborough together with all the Woods and Waters thereon”.

The Crown's stipulation that the land remain a public space in perpetuity spoke to the recognition of a need for a formal gathering space in the young town. The 1875 map of Peterborough depicts the square and is significantly the only area of the map labelled as a public park (within a couple of years the old burial ground on George Street would also be improved as a public

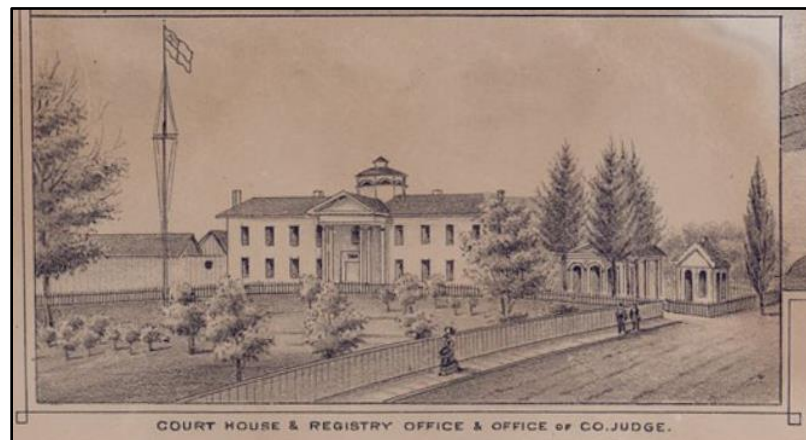
park). In fact, it was notable enough that the lithographer of the map included a scene of the park and Courthouse in the lower left corner of the map.



14 Detail of 1875 Bird's Eye View Map showing Courthouse Precinct and surrounding neighbourhood.

The recognition of the importance of Victoria Park as a public green space also reflected a growing awareness of the need to protect and develop parkland as industrialization and the concomitant densification of growing urban settlements like Peterborough sought to use all available land for development.

Urban parks of the nineteenth century became havens for relief from the overcrowding, poverty, and squalor facing the poor and working class. As park design advanced, they became the physical manifestation of the belief that nature not only had the ability to



15 Detail from 1875 Bird's Eye View Map depicting Courthouse and Registry Building.

bring good health to those living in crowded cities, but also had the ability to inspire citizens to abide by social norms and develop a sense of morality when experiencing 'nature' as a secure and, rationally managed space. Victorian gardens and landscape design tended to be highly organized and well maintained, which was thought to encourage good behaviour by its citizens, while in the park itself and beyond in one's personal life.

Victoria Park maintains many of the original characteristics of a typical Victorian park. Trees lining the paths and a central focus to a geometric plan, in Peterborough's case a fountain were common, as were bandstands. The walkway from the Courthouse into the park was once lined with ornamental vases as it led toward a central fountain and well laid out flower beds flanked the entrance walkway from Water Street. The central



16 Victoria Park and Bandstand c. 1890

fountain, no longer extant was built by prison labour with materials paid for by James Stevenson and George A. Cox. The fountain was part of the landscape design initiated in Victoria Park by the Peterborough Horticultural Society beginning in 1885. The original fountain was a multi-tiered structure, with round basins over a base of cut stone on a cast iron column and featured botanical motifs on the base and tiers of the fountain and a statue on top. The current fountain in Victoria Park is a replacement of the 1885 fountain. Designed after the removal of the original fountain in 1949, the new fountain is constructed on the cast iron column from the original fountain and features two tiers of round basins and a large cement pool as its base. The current fountain features a "fishing boy" statue on top.

Public parks were intended to be accessible, both physically and financially, and made cities more beautiful and livable for all classes of society. From the start Victoria Park has been and remains a source of public pride. The park was the site of many of the town's important gatherings from district agricultural fairs as early as 1843, to a speech by the visiting Prince of Wales in 1860, which was reportedly attended by 15,000 people (far more than could have assembled at the Market Square, the town's only other gathering place). The park also served as the local cricket grounds and as a field for other sports. In 1887, John Belcher was contracted to design a bandstand in the park for Queen Victoria's Golden

Jubilee and the Court House Park, or Court House Green, was renamed Victoria Park in honour of Her Majesty following the celebration. The bandstand survived in the park until 1944 when it was destroyed during a wartime tank demonstration.

The Caretaker's Residence

Early in the twentieth century, another structure, a caretaker's house was added to the precinct, just to the north east of the Courthouse and Jail. The house, a separate building, was conveniently close yet distant enough from the complex that it had that the caretaker could live independently and safely house his family. Constructed around 1930, the house continues to be owned by the County and occupied by a caretaker. The house is a good and highly intact example of a late Edwardian vernacular home that features the typical restrained classical detailing with some Arts and Crafts features. The views from the house offer an impressive view of the Courthouse and former jail site and to the east, the Quaker Oats (QTG-Pepsico) factory. The viewshed from the south porch, with the exception of the jail, is mostly unchanged since the time of its construction.

Historical and Associative Value

The Courthouse Precinct has historical and associative value through its critical role in the development of Peterborough as the seat of government for the District of Colborne and later the County of Peterborough, as a primary green space and outdoor social gathering place for the young growing town in the 19th century, and as the place where both justice and punishment were administered for the region. Early courthouse architecture in Ontario embodied the social and political heritage of new communities – both serving practical needs and as expressions of the vision of Upper Canada as a place of justice and authority.

The precinct yields significant information about 19th-century courthouse design and construction, and how the place functioned as a centre of government and county administration. The Precinct is associated with historically significant figures from royalty to convicted criminals executed in the jail yard. The buildings are associated with architects of

local and international renown including Joseph



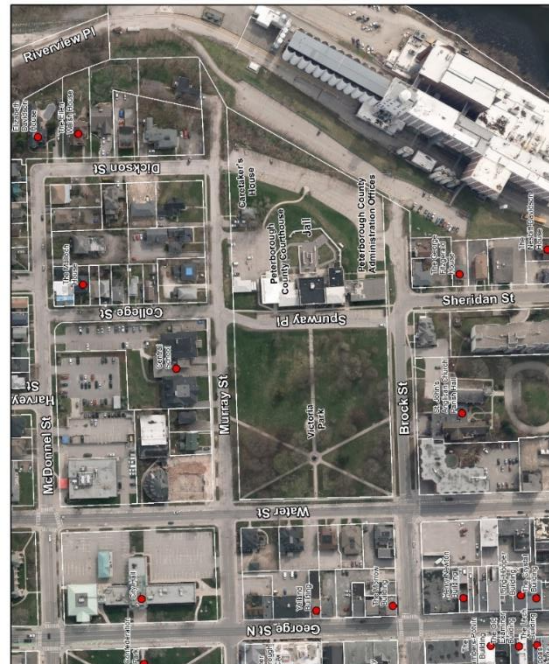
17 Victoria Park, 1887

Scobell who designed the courthouse and jail, and also designed St. John's Anglican Church, John Belcher who designed the interior renovations to the courthouse and the now demolished bandstand in Victoria Park in 1887, William Blackwell who designed the renovation to the Courthouse in 1917 after the Quaker Oats fire, and internationally recognized modern architect Eberhard Zeidler, whose firm designed the current County office wing to the south of the Courthouse.

In June of 1838, a building committee chaired by Thomas A. Stewart was formed to oversee the selection of a design, administer funds, and manage construction of the new courthouse and jail. Jordan Reed, the public land surveyor identified lots five, six and seven east of Water Street for the buildings, a site Richard Birdsall had noted as 'fine rising land' in his surveyor notebooks of 1825. A design competition was announced with a prize for first place of £20, second prize £15 and third prize £10. Lots one to four were set aside for what is now known as Victoria Park, marked in the survey 'Reserved for public use'.

The cornerstone for the Colborne District Courthouse was laid on August 25, 1838, by Sir George Arthur, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, and it would be completed by 1840. The Jail was finished two years later in 1842. The final cost of the project was 7,190 Pounds. The Courthouse was constructed using stone quarried from what is now Jackson Park and Hamilton Park, supplied by Thomas Harper and Barnabas Bletcher.

The first sheriff of Colborne District was Wilson S. Conger of Cobourg, Ontario. Conger was born in Hallowell, Upper Canada in 1804, and was in Cobourg by 1829 where he entered Municipal government. Conger was instrumental in the formation of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway Company in 1835 and was on the Cobourg Board of Police from 1837-1841 when he moved to Peterborough. He served as Colborne District sheriff until 1856 when he was elected to the Legislative Assembly. Conger also served as Mayor of Peterborough in 1856.



18 Map depicting Courthouse Precinct in relation to surrounding designated heritage properties

Contextual Value

The Courthouse Precinct has contextual value through its continuous use as a judicial complex and its role in the wider cultural landscape of its neighbourhood and surrounding development. The Courthouse Precinct is located in an area of downtown where many of the city's oldest buildings are located. The area is known as the Dickson Mills Neighbourhood, due to its associations with the former Dickson Lumber Company, one of Peterborough's primary industries throughout the nineteenth century. The Courthouse Precinct forms part of a neighbourhood comprised of civic and residential structures including two churches, the former St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and St. John's Anglican Church, former Central

School and the former Carnegie Library to the northwest.

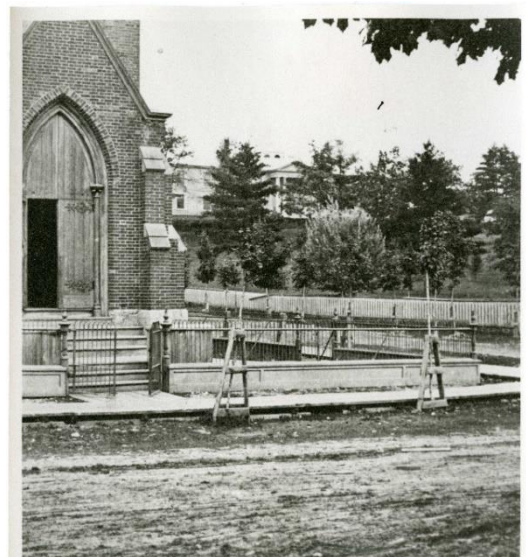


19 Detail of Fleming's 1846 map showing the courthouse and park

Originally designed as a cohesive landscape, the park and buildings have always been intrinsically linked. The site was identified as the location for the courthouse in 1838, with the park having been identified as "Reserved for Public Use" in the first survey of the Town of Peterborough by Richard Birdsall in 1825 and continues to be used as a public space.

The Courthouse precinct has landmark status due to its location at the historic centre of town, in a commanding position on a hill overlooking Peterborough's first public park. It also has value through its longstanding use as a judicial complex in Peterborough's downtown. The precinct is a defining feature of the landscape of Water Street and was an important influence on the development of the neighbourhood that surrounds it.

The Courthouse Precinct It has a longstanding presence in the community's



20 Courthouse from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church c. 1870

collective memory of the development of Peterborough and has been the site of many historically significant events. Starting in 1842, shortly after its construction, the Courthouse Green was the site of Peterborough's first Agricultural Fair, which would have been one the town's first community events. The Courthouse was also used for church services after the town's first Catholic Church burned in 1838.

"The short statement of reason for designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the Heritage Designation Brief constitute the "Reasons for the Designation" required under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Heritage Designation Brief is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours."

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Courthouse Precinct has cultural heritage value or interest as a prominent judicial complex within the City of Peterborough. It is a precinct which includes the original courthouse designed by Joseph Scobell, 1876 renovations by John Belcher, 1917 renovations by William Blackwell, Registry and County Offices addition by Craig & Zeidler in 1960, the Jail, Victoria Park (originally Courthouse Square), and the residence of the caretaker. The courthouse has been in continuous operation since its completion in 1840, first as the District then County Courthouse and it continues to serve the community in this capacity as the Ontario Court of Justice and Ontario Family Court. It has specific physical and design value as a fine and very early example of a judicial complex from the earliest days of the Province of Upper Canada.

Historically, it has direct associations with and yields significant information regarding the evolution of the judicial system in Ontario from its inception. It also yields information about the importance of location and the relationship between buildings and greenspace which was typical of early courthouse design in Ontario. Contextually the courthouse precinct defines the area as a landmark – in its siting, design and as an important early judicial building and as one of the earliest public buildings constructed in the town, overlooking one of the town's first public parks. The setting is in the historic centre of Peterborough, giving the building a dignified and prominent place in the community. In many ways, the precinct has influenced community values over the course of its 180-year history.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all built and natural features within the boundaries of the landscape including, but not limited to, built elements, construction materials, landscaping, natural features, trees, views, and contextual relationship with the surrounding neighbourhood.

Exterior Elements:

Courthouse:

- Additions to courthouse including jail keeper's residence and North addition
- Two-storey, three bay coursed rubble stone and brick construction
- Construction immediately fronting and with unobstructed views of a landscaped park
- Symmetrical composition of main block
- Flat roof including:
 - Balustrade
 - Metal cornice with dentil details
 - Central ornamented pediment
- Front portico and upper balustrade
- Corinthian pilasters supporting the front portico
- Entablature with dentils and cornice
- Blinded Palladian window feature with associated pilasters and entablature
- Medallions flanking Palladian window feature
- Main entrance:
 - Double doors and transom
 - Decorative stone door surrounds
 - Decorative segmental pediment
- Fenestration including elongated round headed windows flanking main entrance and small central six-pane window below cornice
- Hand-tooled stone quoins and window surrounds
- Relationship to Victoria Park
- Viewshed looking east over Peterborough

South Wing – Registry Office

- Random-coursed limestone-clad construction
- Expressed concrete frame
- Corner and ribbon windows
- Limestone banding
- Copper-clad boxed cornice
- Two storey entrance with glass curtain wall

Caretaker's House

- Two-storey red brick construction
- Hipped roof
- Chimney
- Central dormer
- Fenestration
- Entrance porch with square columns, entablature, pediment and brick piers
- Stone foundation
- Offset entrance

Victoria Park

- Sloping lawns
- Planted gardens along entrance from Water Street
- Central walkway
- Radiating walkways from central fountain
- Central fountain (1951)
- Circular walkways
- Circular garden
- Stepped walkway toward Courthouse
- Physical relationship to the County Courthouse Precinct
- Unobstructed views from the park of buildings and viewsheds including but not limited to:
 - Courthouse & Registry Office
 - Site of former St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
 - Central School
 - St. John's Anglican
 - City Hall/Carnegie Annex
 - Viewshed of Peterborough
- Unobstructed views of the park including but not limited to:
 - View of Victoria Park from Water Street corridor
 - Views approaching the park from McDonnell Street, Murray Street, Sheridan Street and College Street,

Interior Elements:

Courthouse

- Original woodwork including, but not limited to:
 - Original wooden trim, including door and window surrounds, transoms and mouldings
 - Original wooden ceiling details including coffering and crown moulding
 - Staircases including handrails, newels, balusters, tread and risers and any other associated details design and structural details
- Main courtroom including:
 - Coffered plaster ceilings with crown moulding

- Original trim, doors, mouldings and decorative woodwork dating from original construction and subsequent 19th and early 20th century renovations
- Solid oak Judge's dais and screen featuring intricately carved dentil details, scrollwork and scales of justice
- Coat of Arms of Ontario Court
- Oak witness box
- Oak prisoner's docket
- Oak railings and jury seating
- Public viewing gallery featuring oak railings
- Upper gallery featuring oak railings and Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom
- Second courtroom including:
 - Coffered ceilings featuring original wooden details
 - Crown moulding with carved details
 - Original wooden window surrounds and chair rail
 - Judge's dais featuring intricately carved wooden details including canopy featuring decorative trefoil
 - Viewing gallery featuring carved woodwork with wooden benches
 - Wooden doors with rounded glass panels and decorative arched transom
- South Wing:
 - Main staircase of South Wing including steel railing with wooden handrails and associated treads and risers and any other associated design or structural details
 - Terrazzo floor in geometric black and white pattern
 - Exposed walls of original Courthouse building
 - Doorways connecting south wing to main Courthouse
 - County Council Chambers including:
 - Carved wood paneled walls
 - Warden's Dais including floating curved wooden canopy
 - Clerk's desk
 - Carved wooden crescent shaped council desks arranged on raised platforms
 - Wall Paneling with battens
 - Carved wooden staff and viewing gallery desks on raised platforms including built in podium
 - Ceiling with lighting in semi-spherical recesses

Natural Landscape Features

- Trees
- Lawns

Views

- Views of Victoria Park and the Courthouse, Jail and Registry Office from Water Street
- Views of the Courthouse, Jail, Registry Office and Jail Keeper's house from Victoria Park
- Views of Victoria Park from the Courthouse, Jail and South Wing
- Views of the City from the Courthouse, Jail and South Wing
- Views of the QTG Pepsico facility from the Courthouse, Jail and Registry Office.

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