



1 Main Street North, Flamborough (Waterdown)



Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes

Description of Property

The 0.61-acre property at 1 Main Street North is comprised of a two-and-a-half storey single-detached brick building located on the northwest corner of Main Street North and Dundas Street East in the former Village of Waterdown and the former Township of East Flamborough, within the City of Hamilton.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 1 Main Street North, formerly known as the Kirk Hotel or Kirk House and currently known as The Royal Coachman, is comprised of a two-and-a-half storey brick commercial building constructed circa 1889. The historical value of the property lies in its role as a significant gathering place in the Village of Waterdown, its association with the Great Fire of 1922 and its long-standing connection to the Kirk family.

The subject property has been a significant gathering place in the Village of Waterdown for over 130 years, originally as a hotel and tavern, and later a restaurant. Its location on early stagecoach routes, and its use as a stop on John Prudham's delivery service route, made it an important part of village life at the turn of the nineteenth century. The early establishment of stagecoach routes in the Waterdown area not only brought travellers but also news of outside places that would not otherwise reach the village. The Kirk House's central location

made it a notable gathering place for events, including the annual dinner hosted by John Prudham (1850-1920) for his farming customers.

The Great Fire of 1922 destroyed a large section of Dundas Street surrounding the Kirk Hotel. The Hamilton Fire Department used the Kirk Hotel as their headquarters while battling the fire, due to its proximity to both the fire and its water source (the former stream behind the hotel). The hotel also served as a temporary hospital during the blaze to treat a firefighter suffering from smoke inhalation.

The property also has direct and long-standing associations with the Kirk family, a well-known and significant family in Waterdown. The Kirk family were hotel keepers who owned and operated the Kirk House in Waterdown from 1888 to 1966. Patrick Kirk (1843-1894) purchased the property on the corner of Dundas and Main Streets from William Heisse, proprietor of the Right House Hotel, in 1888. With his wife Ellen (1837-1907), Patrick established the Kirk House and operated it until his death in 1894, which was publicized in the Hamilton Evening Times. The hotel was passed on and operated by subsequent family members John Henry (1866-1944), John Leo (1897-1947), and Mary (1897-1985) until finally being sold in 1966.

The cultural heritage value of the property also lies in its design value as a late-nineteenth century commercial building influenced by the Queen Anne Revival and Italianate architectural styles. The physical value of the property also lies in its high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit demonstrated by the wood detailing including the decorative bargeboard, wood pilasters, panelling and trim on the projecting bay, and decorative wood bracketing.

The contextual value of the property lies in its contribution to defining the historic character in the Village of Waterdown. The property is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings, located close to the street on the northwest corner of prominent intersection of two historic roads, Main Street North and Dundas Street East. Historically, the Kirk House was connected to multiple stagecoach routes established early in Waterdown's history, and the former hotel provided a place to eat and stay for travellers on their journey. The growth of rail and the popularity of the automobile led to the decline in stagecoaches; however, the Kirk House's central location in the village has allowed it to continue to thrive as a restaurant, operating as the Royal Coachman since 1995. The property is a village landmark.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of the property include the:

- Four exterior elevations of the two-and-a-half-storey brick building, including its:
 - Rectangular footprint;

- Red brick facade laid in Stretcher bond;
- Truncated hip roof with chamfered southeast corner, projecting eaves and moulded wood fascia, plain soffit, and decorative wood bracketing below the eaves;
- Hooded dormers with two-over-two hung wood windows centred on the south and north sides;
- Segmentally-arched window openings with brick voussoirs and stone lug sills;
- Remaining hung wood windows;
- Projecting bay in the second storey of the east facade including:
 - Gable roof with projecting eaves and decorative wooden bargeboard;
 - Half-round transom window;
 - Pair of segmentally-arched window openings;
 - Flanking door openings; and
 - Wood pilasters, panelling and trim
- Hipped roof veranda on the east side below the projecting bay running the length of the facade;
- Southeast chamfered corner window configuration in the second storey including three flat-headed window openings and trim;
- Painted Kirk House signs that may remain intact under the hipped-roof verandah;
- Exterior elevations of the two-storey wood-frame, brick-clad rear (west) wing with matching detailing, including low hip roof, wood bracketing under the projecting eaves and segmentally-arched window openings with brick voussoirs and stone lug sills; and
- Location on the northwest corner of Dundas and Main Streets.