

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST AND DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

Description of Property

The 1.09-hectare property at 64 Hatt Street is a former industrial complex comprised of 12 structures ranging from one- to two-and-a-half storeys, constructed between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries, located on the southeast corner of Hatt and McMurray Streets in the community of Dundas in the City of Hamilton.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 64 Hatt Street, known as the former Dundas Foundry and Valley City Manufacturing, is comprised of 12 vernacular buildings constructed between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. The physical value of the property lies in the fact that it is comprised of two rare and unique examples of pre-Confederation architecture in Upper Canada, which are two of the oldest extant industrial buildings in Dundas.

The historical value of the property lies in its direct association with several prominent figures in Dundas’ history, including John Gartshore (1810-1873) and James Bell Ewart (1801-1853), and its association with the former Dundas Foundry and Valley City Manufacturing. In 1838, Gartshore established the Dundas Iron Foundry & Machine Shop in partnership with Ewart. The foundry produced internationally renowned large machinery, including steam engines and boilers for the Hamilton Water Works, the Great Western Railway, and Toronto Water Works. Gartshore was also well known for the training of apprentices at his foundry. Many apprentices went on to become industrialists in their own right, including John Inglis (1823-1899) of John Inglis & Co. (now Whirlpool Canada), and John Bertram (1829-1906) and Robert McKechnie (1835-1909), who founded McKechnie & Bertram, later known as Bertram & Sons Co., in Dundas. In addition to financing the Dundas Foundry & Machine Shop, Ewart opened the community’s first bank and invested in transportation projects such as the Desjardins Canal, the London and Gore Rail Road, and the Great Western Rail Road to increase access to Dundas’ industries. Ewart was also a leading figure in Dundas’ social and political circles, serving as a justice of the peace, the postmaster, and the president of the town council.

Additionally, the historical value of the property lies in its association with Valley City Manufacturing, which operated out of the property for more than 120 years, manufacturing furniture for schools, churches, and laboratories. In the 1910s, the

company was contracted by architect John A. Pearson (1867-1940) to create furniture for Centre Block on Parliament Hill. In 1937, the company was taken over by Hamilton construction magnate Joseph M. Pigott (1885-1969). Under Pigott, the company was contracted by the Otis-Fensom Elevator Company in Hamilton during the Second World War to manufacture wooden cases for the Bofors anti-aircraft guns with shaped sockets for each part and tool so the guns could be assembled in the dark.

The contextual value of the property lies in its role in defining the character the area, serving as a reminder of Dundas’ past as an industrial and manufacturing centre. The setting of the property defines the historic character of Hatt Street and the community of Dundas, with the north elevation and roofline featuring distinctive architectural details. The property is visually, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings, comprised of a former industrial complex located along Spencer Creek, which provided power to the historic foundry, and near historic transportation corridors that were crucial to its early and continued success. The property is also considered to be a local landmark.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The key attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the property as a unique, rare and early example an industrial complex and pre-Confederation architecture and its historical association with the Dundas Foundry and previous owners John Gartshore and James Bell Ewart, include the:

- Front (north) elevation and roofline of the circa 1846 central two-and-a-half storey stone structure including its;
 - Even coursed, cut sandstone construction;
 - Front gable roof with central stone chimney and date stone inscribed with “A.D. 1846”;
 - Flat-headed window opening with stone lintels and sills;
 - Two six-pane windows below the gable;
 - Six-over-six hung wood windows in the second storey; and,
 - Twelve-pane wood windows in the first storey;
- Front (north) elevation and roofline of the circa 1850s western central two-storey brick structure including its:

- Brick construction laid in Common bond;
- Side gable roof with corbelled brick chimney; and,
- Three bays of segmentally-arched window opening with radiating brick voussoirs, stone sills and twelve-pane wood windows;
- Front (north) and side (west) elevations and roofline of the circa 1850s western end two-storey brick structure including its:
 - Six bays of flat-headed window openings in the front (north) elevation with stone lintels and sills;
 - Combination of flat-headed and segmentally-arched window openings in the side (west) elevation with their stone lintels, brick voussoirs and sills; and,
 - Twelve-pane wood windows in the front (north) and side (west) elevations;

The key attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the property as a unique and rare example of an industrial complex and its association with Valley City Manufacturing include the:

- Front (north) elevation of the eastern central circa 1910 two-storey brick structure including its:
 - Corbelled brick course and pilasters;
 - Segmentally-arched window openings with brick voussoirs, stone sills and six-over-six hung wood windows;
 - Ground-floor entrance with decorative pilasters, entablature, leaf motif, and glass transom; and,
 - Ground-floor commercial entrance with nine-pane picture window, transoms, plain dentilated cornice and single entrance door;
- Front (north) elevation of the circa 1960 eastern end two-storey brick structure including its:
 - Flat-headed window openings with plain sills;
 - Brick corbelling; and,
 - Decorative concrete panel featuring a tree, set square, T-square, compass, and circular saw;

The key attributes that embody the contextual value of the property as a defining feature of the historical character of Hatt Street and as a local landmark include its:

- Location along Spencer Creek;
- Location fronting onto Hatt Street; and,
- Tall brick chimney.