



Town Hall 1890

town hall
Ingersoll

architectural conservation

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INGERSOLL TOWN HALL

HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE
Analysis and Conservation

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1. INTRODUCTION

The historic Town Hall in Ingersoll is a large and impressive building of architectural and historic importance. While the exterior and interior of the building has suffered considerable neglect over the years, restoration could yield dramatic results and re-establish the building's former grandeur and beauty.

The building has not been changed significantly since 1856, and with the exception of structural repairs, restoration of the Town Hall is affordable for a community the size of Ingersoll. Much of the original fabric, such as doors and windows, ceilings and wainscoting and mouldings remain. To be sure the services of the building need upgrading as can be expected, but no massive rebuilding is required to recapture the original appearance of the building. Ironically, the features that have been removed, such as the decorative chimneys, roof cresting and belfry are not expensive features to replace, but yield dramatic visual results. Their rebuilding, especially the belfry, will quickly re-establish the flair and dash the building once had.

Inside the grand staircase and the Auditorium are truly magnificent spaces. Many great Canadians visited the Auditorium to speak. It has also been for over a century, the social centre. To climb up the grand stairs and enter the Auditorium is quite a thrilling experience. This large space, with its high windows, bursts open like sunshine through clouds. This is Canadian heritage of the first order. To restore the Auditorium, floor, walls, wainscoting, windows, ceiling and stage would result in a truly distinctive room. Less flamboyant spaces like the fire hall and entrance way, are also important historic spaces too.

The purpose of this part of the report is to carefully analyze the building's history and architecture and recommend conservation.

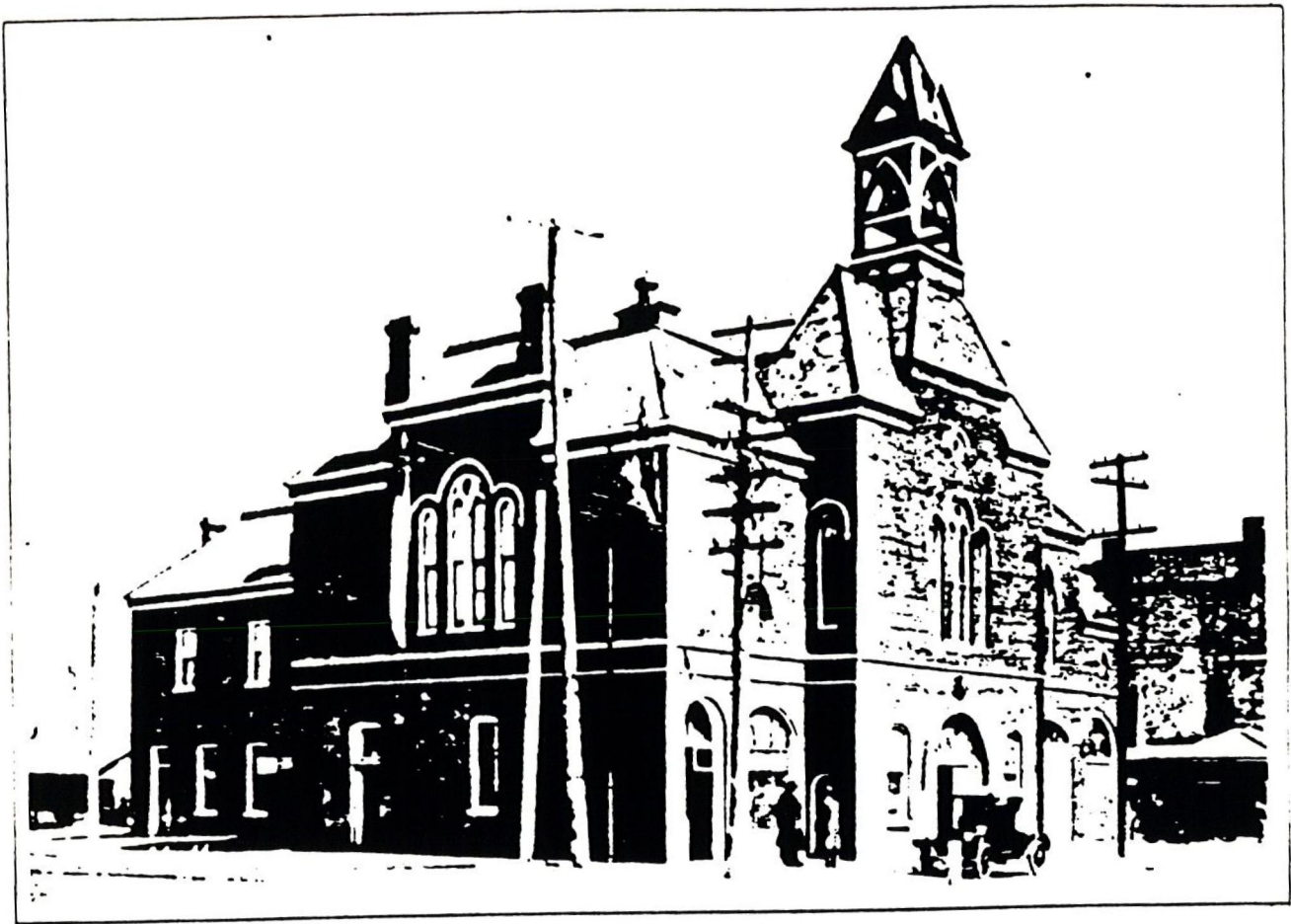
2. HISTORY

With the loss by fire of the first Town Hall in 1856, construction of the present building on an adjacent site was determined by Council. The general contractor was William M. Long of Ingersoll and the builder, George O'Hayra. A delay occurred when the original design, published in advance on the Tremaine Map, met with a good deal of public opposition. The young architect, John MacNiven, produced a modified proposal which added a frontispiece to the main facade, eliminating the ill regarded flat appearance. This necessitated only slight alterations to the foundations, which were already in place, but an extra cost of \$760.00. An unforeseen difficulty arose when neighbouring property owners discovered that the frontispiece would encroach on the street allowance. However, the objections were dropped and two years after the first Town Hall was destroyed by fire, the new building was completed.

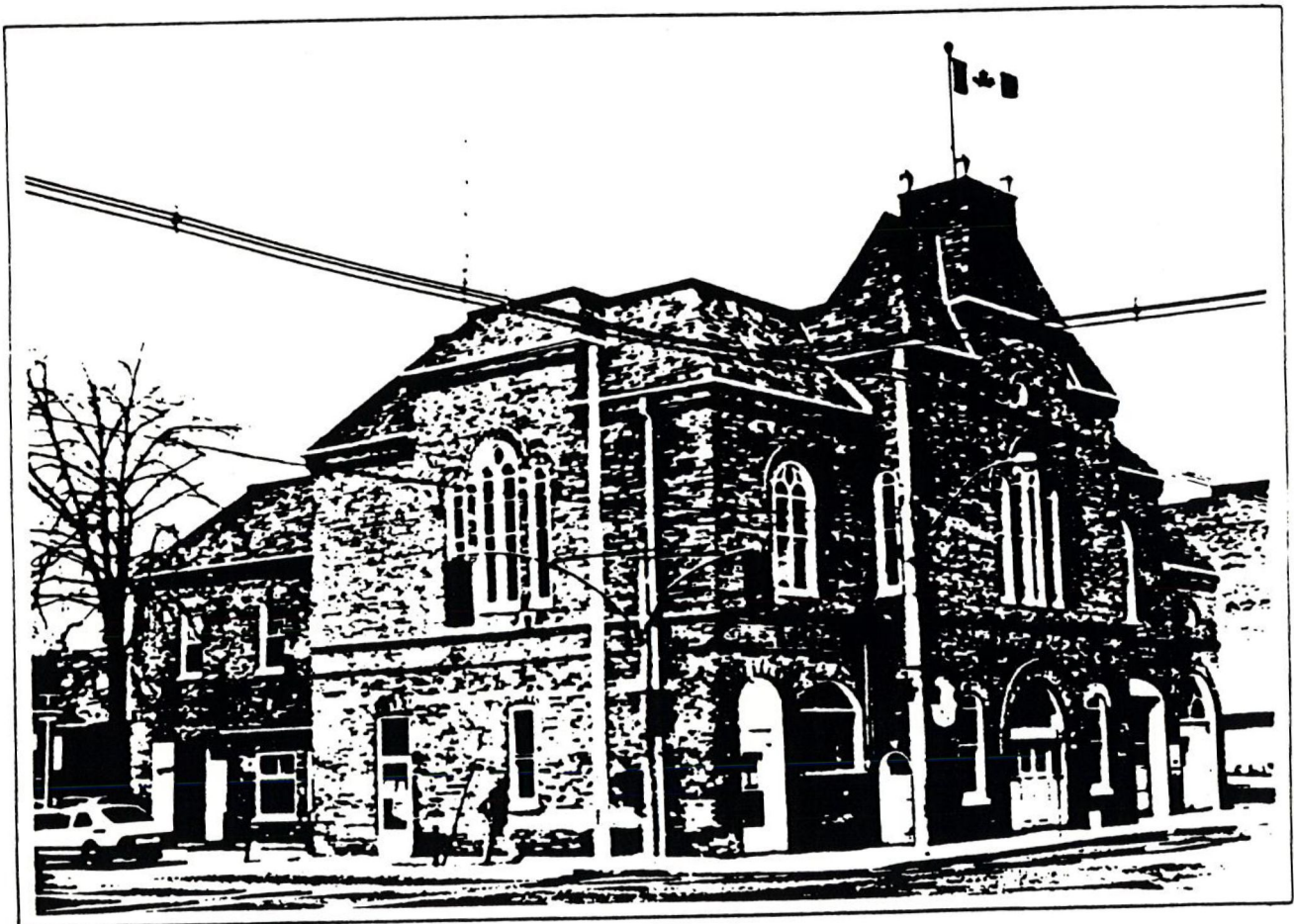
The Ingersoll Chronicle gave this account of the new building:

"The style of architecture in this building is of the late Norman period. It contains Vegetable and Meat Markets and two stores on the ground range; while on the first floor is a spacious room, extending over the entire front portion of the building, to be used as a Town Hall. Over the rear are the Council Chamber, Clerk's Office, etc."

The success of the new facility is unquestioned, both as a source of civic pride and as a factor in the Town's economic growth. At that period, Ingersoll had a great grain market and the new market building was a major reason for its success.



Town Hall 1920



Town Hall 1987

The Town Hall portion of the building, the Auditorium, was the scene of significant political activity. John A. MacDonald spoke there, as did George Brown, Thomas D'Arcy McGee and Wilfred Laurier. Here local rivals John Galliford and Adam Oliver vied for the honour of becoming the first Mayor of Ingersoll when the village officially became a town in 1865.

After a period of prosperity and success, in 1876 a disastrous fire gutted the building leaving only the Fire Hall and the walls of the rest of the building standing. The Fire Hall annex had been added to the east side of the building after an earlier fire and housed the Town's Silsby steam fire engine. (This entailed keeping the horses stabled on the premises, an unfortunate arrangement which resulted in the Town's early purchase of a motorized fire engine.) Council was faced with the decision of whether to rebuild or relocate. The course of action chosen was the former, and in spite of considerable controversy, the rebuilding was effected and it carried out its former functions as Fire Hall, Town Hall, commercial and social activities, and as seen in late 19th century photographs, Police Offices.

Unfortunately, succeeding Councils allowed the building to fall into disrepair. An architect's report submitted in the Fall of 1897 contended that north and south walls and the supports of the belfry were about to collapse. In view of the expense required to replace it, Council decided to retain the old Town Hall. In 1919, Mayor J. V. Buchanan tried again to have new quarters built. One of the complaints against the old building was that the fire horses were stabled on the premises. Mayor Buchanan did not succeed in getting a new building, but he did, apparently, succeed in getting a motorized fire engine.

The Town's prosperity declined as other cities claimed a share of the lucrative cheese business and new railway lines opened up other areas to trade. As the fortunes of the town declined so did those of the Town Hall. However, many important social functions continued to be held there, and the Town offices were located there until very recently.

Over the past ten years the use and history of the Town Hall has been checkered. Many times the building has almost been demolished. The last time it looked like the end was in sight for the Old Town Hall was in 1975. Council determined the building did not provide the facilities necessary for modern offices. For a time the hall was declared unsafe and there was a ban on use. Following a restoration effort by a local group, the ban was lifted. Still the municipal offices themselves had to be relocated. After much discussion the Town Offices were moved into the former liquor store building on Oxford Street in March 1976, leaving the future life of the Old Town Hall rather tentative. But things looked brighter for the building's future when the creative arts community raised money and received grants to upgrade portions of the building. An almost certain death was avoided.

The building continued in use as a creative arts centre until 1980 when two structural reports determined the building was structurally unsafe. The Town Council thereupon banned further use of the Town Hall. Of the two structural reports, one from William Haas estimated it would cost \$76,000 to restore the Town Hall completely, the other from James Ma estimated it would cost about \$68,000 to repair only the structure.

In October 1986, Town Council debated the fate or future of the Town Hall again, and also heard from a Citizen's Committee that presented a petition with 708 signatures of people who desired to see the building saved.

Finally, it was decided that a feasibility study be prepared to determine the full extent of the physical condition of the building and how it may be put to a new and profitable use.

3. SETTING

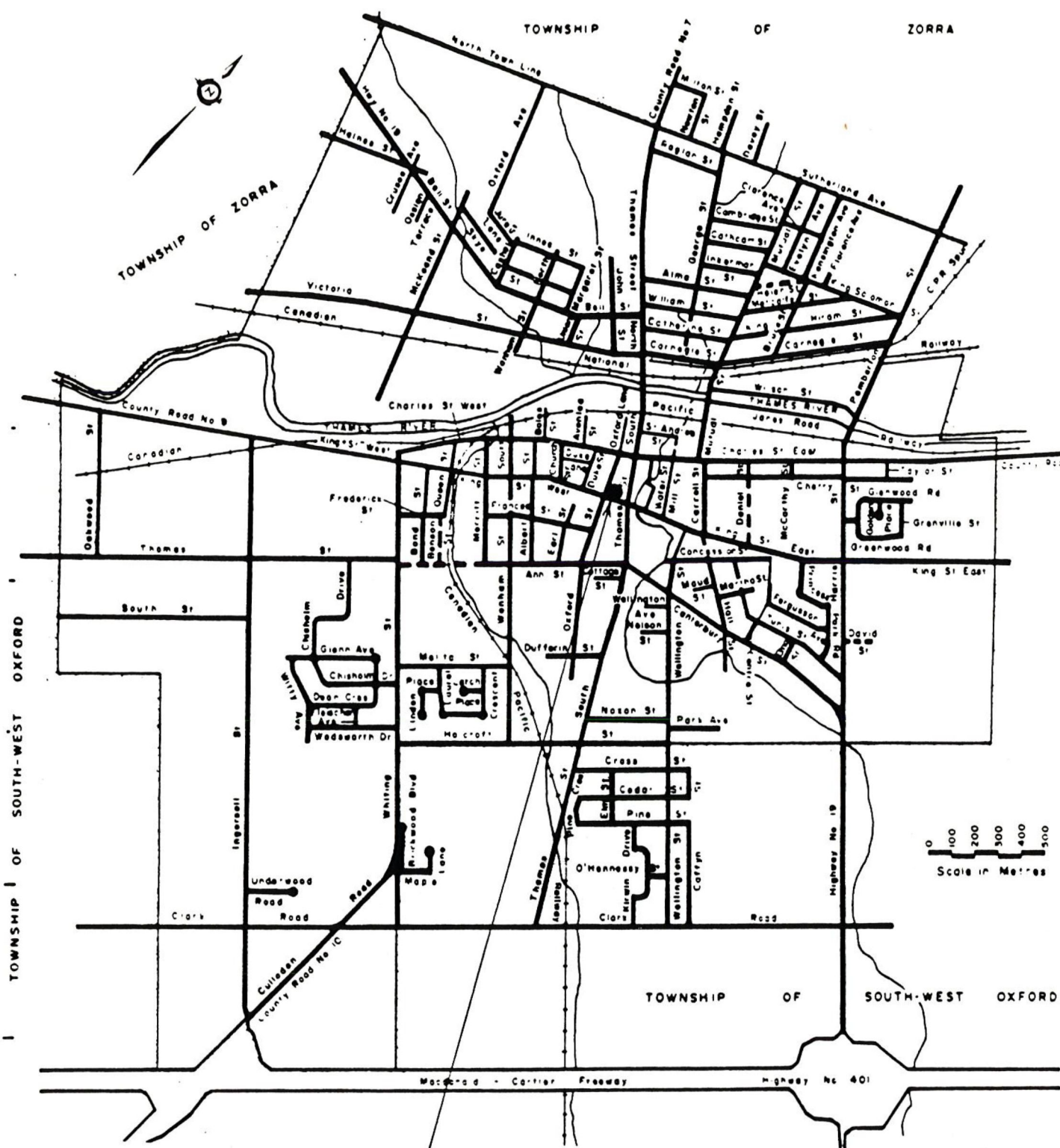
3.1 ANALYSIS

The Town Hall is situated on the north side of King Street at the corner of Oxford Street in downtown Ingersoll. The flat site has been paved in asphalt to provide parking in the large Market Square to the north and angle parking along the wide laneway to the east. The concrete sidewalk reaches to the building's edge along King Street, as does the more informal asphalt paved area which serves as a sidewalk along this portion of Oxford Street, where there is parallel parking. All parking spaces are equipped with meters. There are concrete light standards beside the building on both streets and another concrete pole supporting traffic lights and hydro wires at the corner.

The bulk of the imposing Town Hall on the northeast corner is balanced by that of the old brick hotel building with hipped roof which has been on the northwest corner since 1857. Similarly the three storey J. C. Norsworthy Building, a well preserved 1876 structure, is a substantial presence on the north side of King Street to the east. The one and two storey commercial buildings of more recent date, which stand opposite the Town Hall on the south side of King Street, are not, on the other hand, architecturally significant. The two storey red brick Ingersoll Police Force building is to the north of the Town Hall.

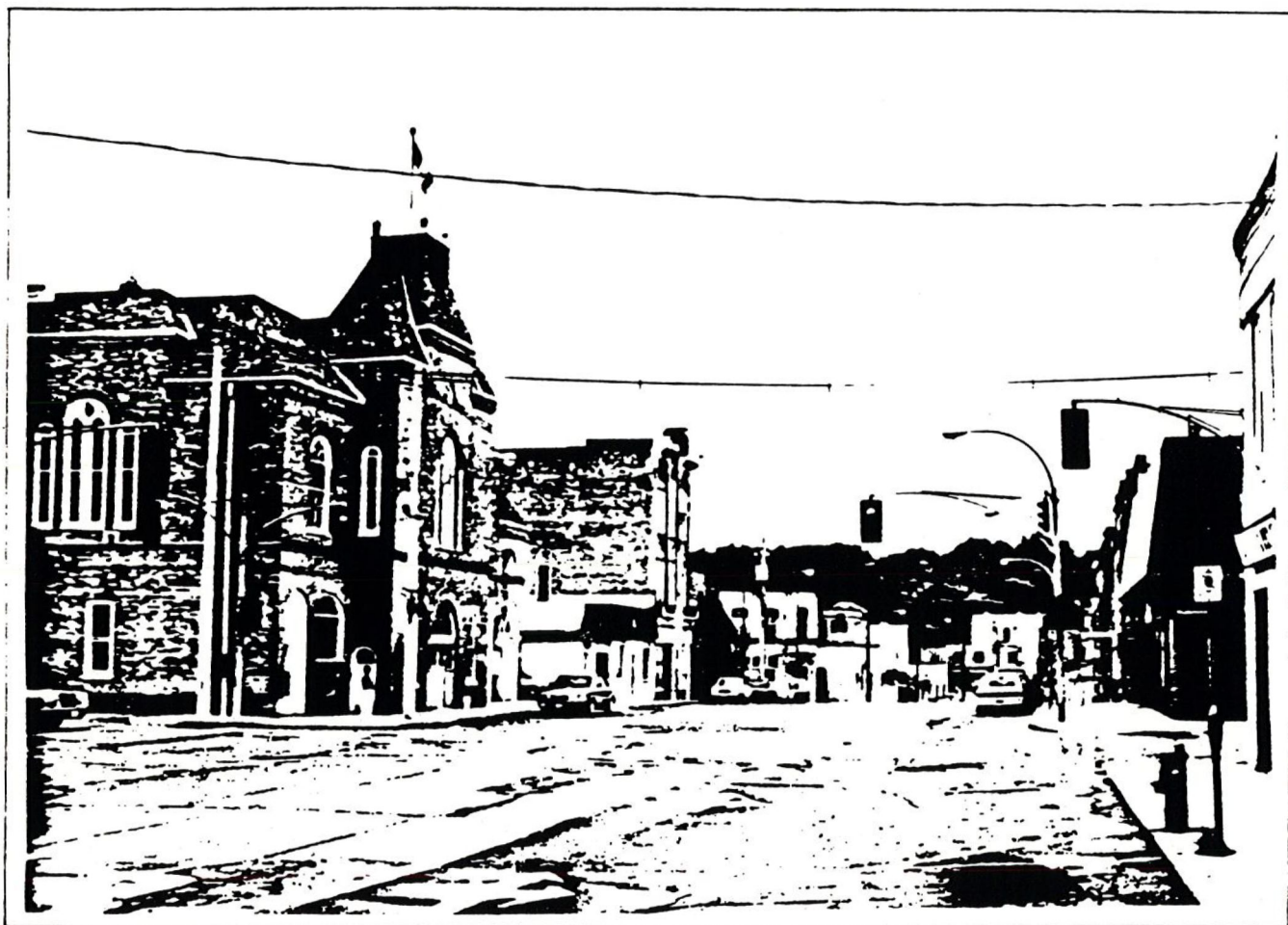
3.2 CONSERVATION

It is recommended that an effort be made to improve the setting of this fine High Victorian Italianate building. Improvements to be considered, include landscaping around the building in the



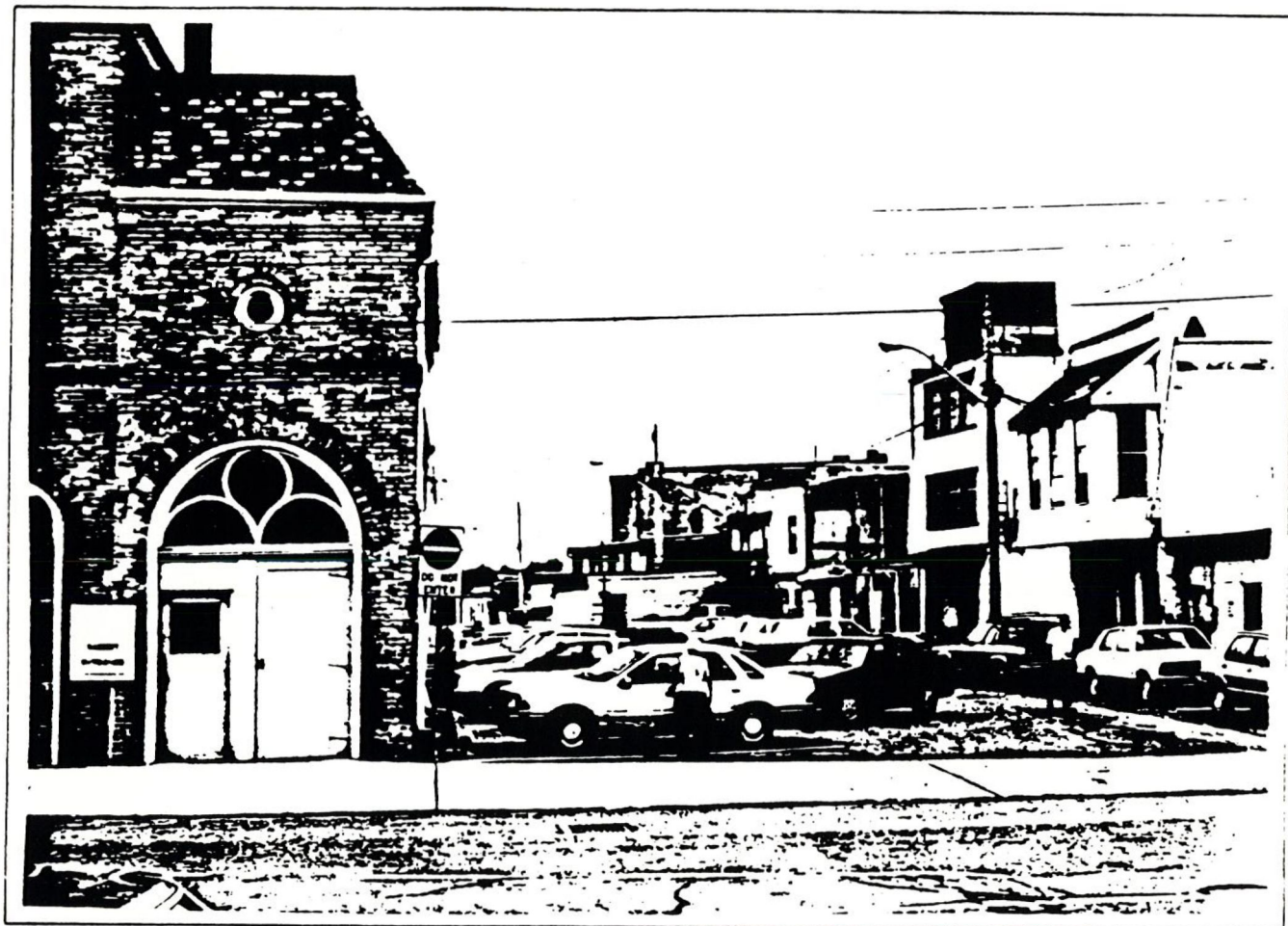
town hall

location plan



SETTING

It is advised that the setting of the Town Hall be enhanced with Italianate style landscaping of fountains and a small formal garden.



SETTING

Landscaping is required to set the Town Hall off from the car parking and backs of blocks to the north and east.

Italianate style with an emphasis on water by way of a focal fountain. Most certainly a landscaped buffer area is required to separate the setting of the Town Hall and the car parking and backs of blocks to the north and east.

4. ARCHITECTURE

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this subsection is to carefully analyze the exterior and interior architecture of the Town Hall and recommend conservation. Historic photographs reveal that the building has been changed remarkably little over the century and that opportunities exist for affordable restoration that would yield dramatic results. On the exterior, besides repairing and restoring the existing historic fabric, such as the doors and windows, it is advised that the decorative chimneys, cresting and belfry be rebuilt. These not expensive items are richly visual and exciting. On the inside, the key historic spaces are the Auditorium, grand staircase, Fire Hall and central entrance way. The Auditorium and grand staircase are truly magnificent spaces that are largely intact and original. Their restoration is a very manageable task both physically and economically.

4.2 EXTERIOR

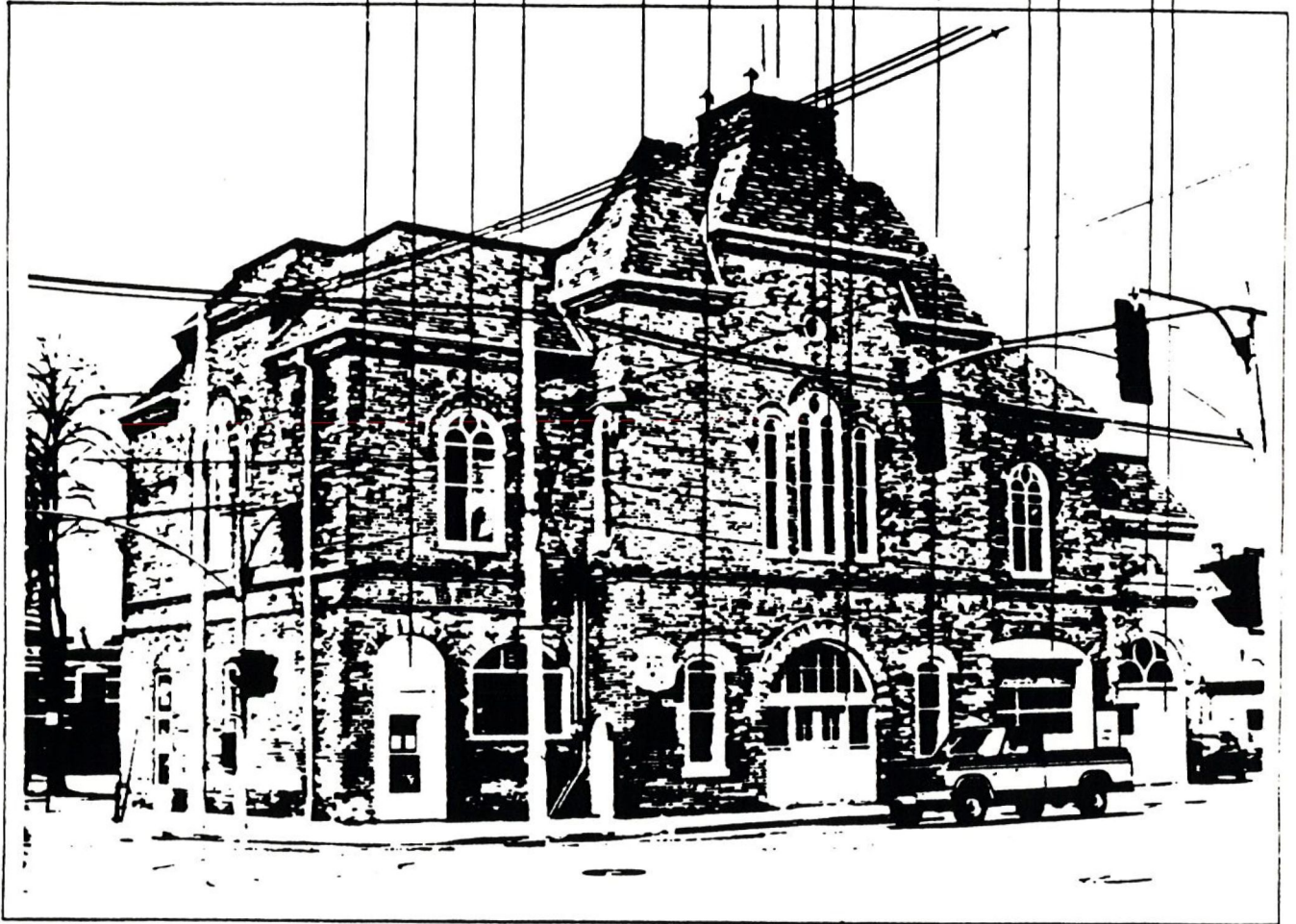
4.2.1 SOUTH ELEVATION

4.2.1.1 INTRODUCTION

The south elevation, the main facade of the building, was designed as a balanced composition of slightly projecting centre block or frontispiece with flanking wings. The frontispiece rises above the side wings and is surmounted by a steeply pitched hipped roof and, originally, a belfry. The pleasing symmetry is continued in the disposal of window and door openings across the facade with the beautiful Venetian window as a centrepiece.

item

11 9 6 10 12 3 13 5 4 2 3 6 7 5 8



south elevation analysis

The east front addition of circa 1876 is well integrated in scale and detail and does not undermine the building's design. However, the removal of the belfry was a major loss which should be redressed when structural stability is restored.

4.2.1.2 MAIN ENTRANCE

Analysis: The principal entry to the building is through a generous round-arched opening crowned with wide brick drip mould with label stops. An early photograph shows this entrance to have been an open entry. It is presently fitted with a transom and glazed double-leaf doors and side panels.

Conservation: If it is decided that this entrance remain closed in, the present small paned transom sash could be retained, but more substantial doors and side panels are called for. Careful consideration should be given to opening this entry up again as originally designed.

4.2.1.3 FLANKING WINDOWS, FRONTISPIECE

Analysis: A tall narrow window, with arch-radiating voussoirs of contrasting yellow brick above semi-elliptical head, is located to either side of the main entrance. The 1/1 wood interior sash is present behind aluminum storms and there are painted concrete sills.

Conservation: All original sash should be retained where possible and storms upgraded.

4.2.1.4 VENETIAN WINDOW

Analysis: This tripartite window consists of a long narrow round headed window with moulded frame to either side of a larger coupled window with head tracery suggesting a trefoil. The three elements are linked by connected arch radiating voussoirs and drip moulds to form a single design unit. The l/l interior sash appear to be original; there are aluminum storms.

Conservation: This is a major feature of the south elevation and should be conserved.

4.2.1.5 BULL'S EYE WINDOWS

Analysis: A small round oculus is often associated with Second Empire features such as a Mansard roof, and this building has two on the south face. One is located above the Venetian window and the other over the entrance to the east front addition. Each window is emphasized by radiating brickwork and a drip mould.

Conservation: The occuli are small but important elements and should be conserved.

4.2.1.6 SECOND STORY WINDOWS, MAIN BLOCK WINGS

Analysis: Large round arched windows echo the design of the central Venetian window, repeating the pattern of arch radiating voussoirs, drip moulds and "trefoil" glazing bars. The interior sash appears to be original with aluminum storms added.

Conservation: These generous windows are important features of the building and should be conserved.



WINDOWS

The windows in the Town Hall are a most attractive feature and are of the Italianate style.

4.2.1.7 CARRIAGE ENTRANCE

Analysis: The semi-elliptical opening of the drive-in entrance has decorative radiating brickwork above. The transom, which had vertical small paned sash, has been filled in with plywood and a modern double garage door installed below.

Conservation: Refit with transom sash and carriage style doors, as seen in historic photographs.

4.2.1.8 ENTRANCE TO EAST END ADDITION

Analysis: A generous round headed entrance to the Town Hall Auditorium staircase provides another important feature of the south elevation. There is a wide decorative drip mould above and a large transom with sash having arched tracery echoing that of the main block second storey windows. The original doors have been replaced.

Conservation: This important entrance should be fitted with period design doors as shown in the historic photograph.

4.2.1.9 ENTRANCE TO MAIN BLOCK, WEST WING

Analysis: The original tall round headed opening has been retained but is largely filled in with plywood and a smaller door has been installed.

Conservation: Rebuild with transom and period door with glazed panels to match historic photographs.

4.2.1.10 FIRST STOREY WINDOW, WEST WING

Analysis: This is a large segmentally arched window with voussoirs. The lower portion has been bricked in and the original sash replaced.

Conservation: Restore opening to original size and install sash with arched muntins as seen in historic photographs.

4.2.1.11 BRICKWORK

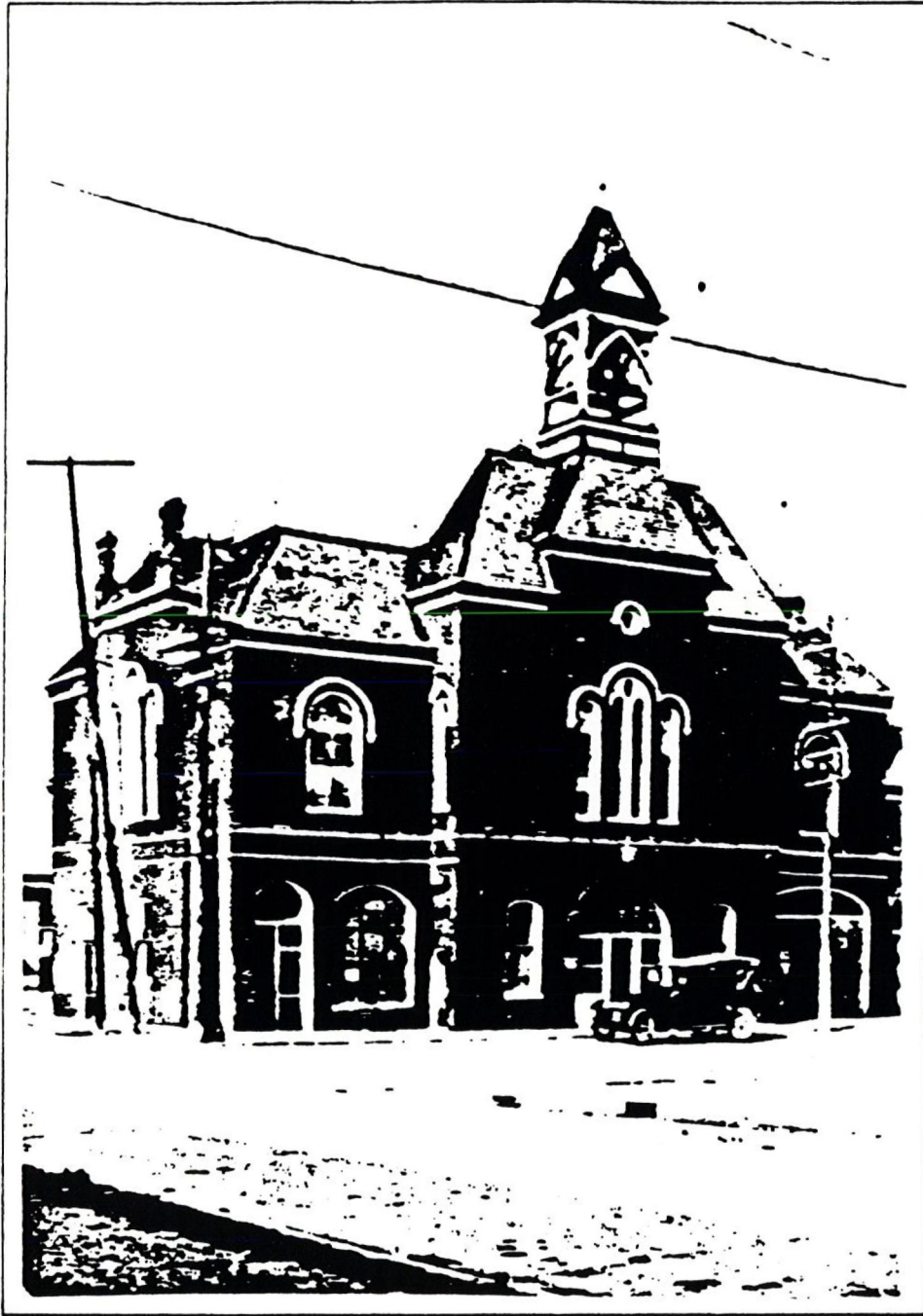
Analysis: The variegated salmon to yellow brick, laid in stretcher bond, is an attractive feature unfortunately damaged by sand-blasting. A nice restraint is demonstrated in the use of decorative brickwork: there is a roof cornice of three ranges of stepped brick and a double string course consisting of a single row of projecting brick and a triple row two feet above the first. Arch radiating voussoirs and drip moulds with label stops emphasizing the structural openings.

Conservation: Repoint and repair brick where necessary.

4.2.1.12 ROOF FEATURES

The main roof design is based on the Second Empire or Mansard style, closely related to Italianate, while the steeply pitched hipped roof over the frontispiece is reminiscent of French Chateau architecture.

Historic photographs show iron cresting on both the Mansard roof and along the hipped edge to either side of the belfry.



THE ORIGINAL TOWN HALL

The plan basically advises that the exterior of the Town Hall be restored back to its original grandeur, including the rebuilding of the belfry, chimneys, roof cresting and cedar shingle roof.

Conservation: The original roof shape should be respected and the iron cresting should be reinstated. The roof finish should be wood shingle as originally designed and built.

4.2.1.13 BELFRY

Analysis: This feature, with its pyramidal roof and open sides, was removed only a few years ago for structural reasons - a great loss to the overall design of the building.

Conservation: Once structural stability is restored to the building, the belfry should be rebuilt to the original design.

4.2.1.14 FRONTISPIECE SIDE WALLS

Analysis: To either side at second storey level there is a tall narrow window identical to those which flank the central element of the Venetian window. At ground level on the east side, an opening has been bricked in. The corresponding opening on the west side still exists. It gives the appearance of having been a door originally, but the late 19th century photograph shows the lower half closed in and a window occupying the upper half.

Conservation: The upper windows should be conserved.

4.2.2 WEST ELEVATION

4.2.2.1 INTRODUCTION

This view of the building reveals the west face of the main block side wing, and of the rear wing of the original T-shaped plan. Although it lacks the unity of composition of the south elevation the west side, exposed to Oxford Street, is lent dignity by the Venetian window placed beneath an elevated section of roof which creates the effect of a small tower. Early photographs show that nicely proportioned chimneys were placed at each corner of this projection and that the roof was topped with iron cresting. This composition is framed by a roof cornice and belt course of stepped brickwork.

4.2.2.2 SIDE ENTRANCE, FRONT WING

Analysis: This tall narrow opening has a segmentally arched head with voussoirs. The interior door, set in a deep embrasure, appears to be original, but the sash has been removed from the large transom. There is an aluminum storm door and transom sash.

Conservation: Interior transom sash should be rebuilt, interior door retained and storms upgraded.

4.2.2.3 FIRST STOREY WINDOW, FRONT WING

Analysis: A tall narrow window to the south of the side entrance has segmentally arched head and voussoirs with a moulded wood sill and 1/1 wood interior sash.

Conservation: Retain interior 1/1 wood sash, repair and repaint.

item

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west elevation analysis

4.2.2.4 VENETIAN WINDOW

Analysis: This feature is an assembly of three tall narrow round headed windows, the larger central one being double with tracery at the head suggesting a trefoil and a moulded mullion. The three elements are linked by connected arch radiating voussoirs surmounted by drip moulds with label stops. The sills have been removed and metal sheathing nailed over.

Conservation: The Venetian window is a major design element of the west elevation and should be retained and repaired as necessary.

4.2.2.5 SECOND STOREY WINDOWS, REAR WING

Analysis: Three flat head windows with arch radiating voussoirs are symmetrically placed across the west flank of the rear wing, which is lower in height than the main block. They have wood sills, to which metal sheathing has been attached.

Conservation: Retain interior sash, repair and repaint sills.

4.2.2.6 SIDE ENTRANCES, REAR WING

Analysis: The position and height of these three openings can be seen by the voussoirs but the two to the south were originally windows. The original north entrance has been fitted with a modern slab door and the transom has been boarded over.

Conservation: The original north entrance should have the transom sash reinstated. Better quality doors on all three would be a benefit.

4.2.2.7 ENTRY ADDITION

Analysis: The matching brick and roofing make this small modern addition relatively unobtrusive. There are picture windows to the north and a raised entrance to the south.

Conservation: Remove if not essential to the use of the building.

4.2.2.8 BRICKWORK

Analysis: The brick on this face is well matched for colour and there is no unsightly patching. The main block cornice of stepped brickwork is continued on the rear wing. There is a metal end fastening of a tie rod near the rear of the building at second storey level. The lower two to three feet of the wall shows weather damage, particularly on the rear wing where there is also some impact damage at the corner. A crack across the middle of the rear wing wall was also noted. Rainwater leaders traverse both sections: that on the main block is particularly distracting and empties at the base of the wall.

Conservation: Repointing will be required.

4.2.2.9 ROOF FEATURES

Analysis: The straight sloped Mansard roof is broken above the Venetian window to create the effect of a small tower. The entire roof edge is fitted with new eavestrough and the roof appears to be in a good state of repair.

Conservation: Rebuilding the pair of chimneys on the main block, as seen in historic photographs, would greatly enhance the importance of the west elevation, as would the reinstallation of iron cresting on both main block and rear wing. The original finish of wood shingles should be re-instated.

4.2.3 EAST ELEVATION

4.2.3.1 INTRODUCTION

This facade, which does not face onto a street, has a rather utilitarian aspect compared with the two previously described. It presents a view of the end wall of the front addition built after the 1876 fire, with high lock-up windows and a small side entrance. A blocked-in doorway at second storey level creates an unmatched area in the brickwork. The hose drying tower, now sheathed in metal, is an interesting feature, but this elevation is badly compromised by the one storey shed roofed additions to the north east. Not an attractive face as it now stands. Historic photographs reveal two tall chimneys, matching those of the west elevation, on the east end of the main block and iron cresting both on the main block east wing and the east front addition.

4.2.3.2 SIDE ENTRANCE, FRONT ADDITION

Analysis: A flat headed opening with arch radiating voussoirs provides an entry toward the rear of this section. The deep set door is of recent vintage.

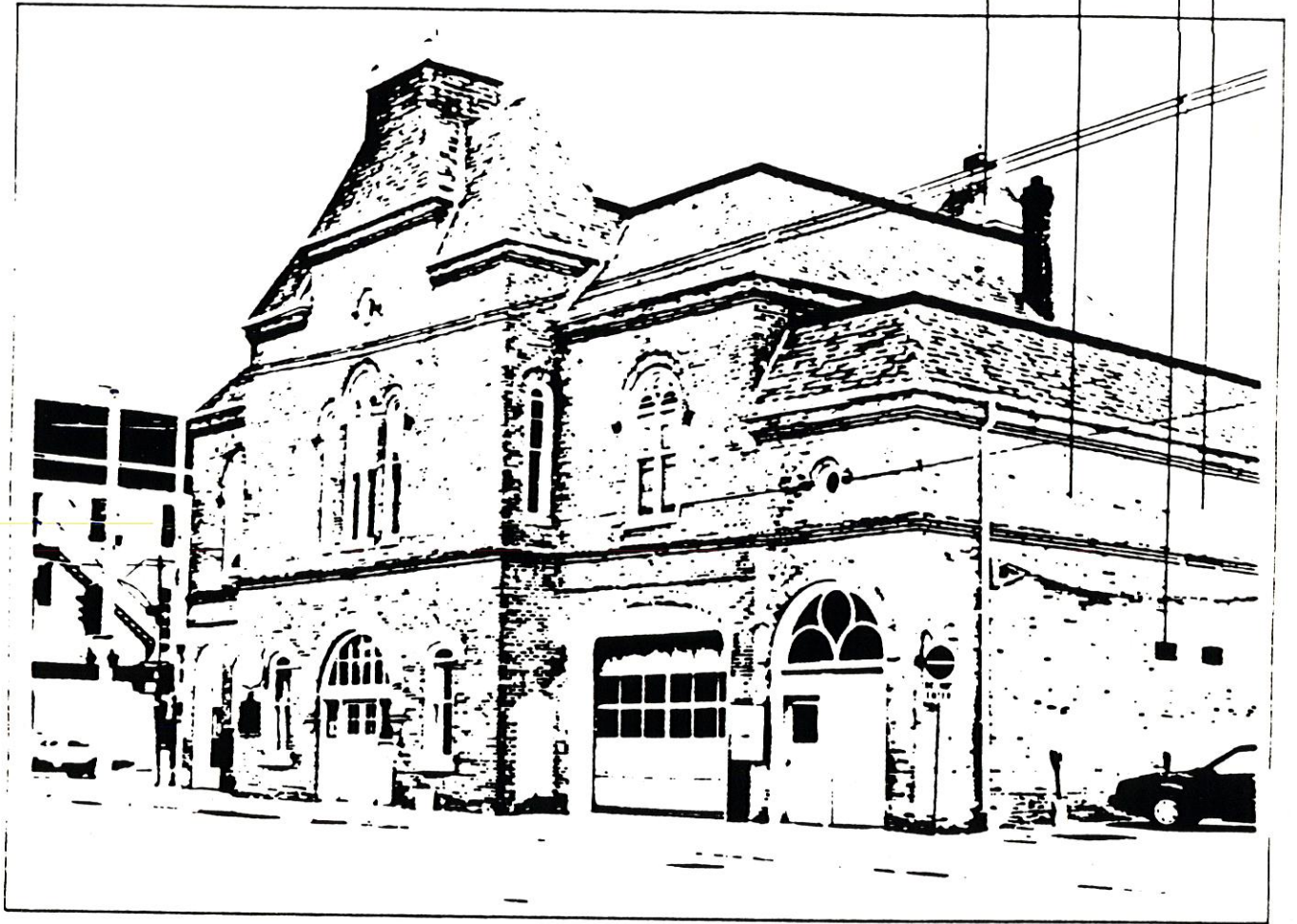
Conservation: This is an original opening to the early addition, but the door could be upgraded.

4.2.3.3 CEILING LEVEL WINDOWS, FRONT ADDITION

Analysis: There are three small high windows with bars towards the rear of the main block, the brickwork indicating that the two towards the south are original.

items

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east elevation analysis

Conservation: The two original lock-up windows should be retained.

4.2.3.4 SECOND STOREY DOORWAY, FRONT ADDITION

Analysis: This opening, which gave off the entrance lobby to the Town Hall, has been bricked in without matching the brick colour. There is evidence that a balcony was formerly present.

Conservation: Ideally this doorway should be re-opened and the small balcony rebuilt. It would provide light and ventilation to the Town Hall lobby and an amenity for that facility if it is used as a theatre.

4.2.3.5 SECOND STOREY WINDOWS, REAR WING

Analysis: As on the west face, there are three flat headed windows with arch radiating voussoirs and 6/6 interior sash. An air conditioner has been installed in one window. The sills have been sheathed with metal.

Conservation: Retain 6/6 sash and repair or replace sills.

4.2.3.6 NORTH EAST ADDITIONS

Analysis: These two low structures of brick and wood appear to have been used for vehicle storage, both having garage type doors at present.

Conservation: Removal of these two additions would be a great benefit to the historic appearance of the building.

4.2.3.7 BRICKWORK

Analysis: The string course, which continues from the south face of the front addition, has been cut through to accommodate a rainwater leader at the south end. It was originally interrupted by the second storey entrance and an attempt made to duplicate it when that entrance was bricked in. The roof cornice is also continued from the front elevation and is present on the rear wing as well.

Conservation: Repoint as necessary, match brick if second storey entrance recreated.

4.2.3.8 ROOF FEATURES

Analysis: A chimney of dark red brick rises above the roof of the front addition.

Conservation: The original positioning of chimneys should be restored, and roof cresting reinstalled according to the historic photographs. The original roof finish of cedar shingles should be relaid.

4.2.3.9 HOSE DRYING TOWER

Analysis: This square structure, presently sheathed in metal siding, rises above the roof of the rear wing where it joins the east wing of the main block to the south. There is a pyramidal roof topped with a ventilating device.

Conservation: This is an important feature of the building, reflecting its historic use, and should be retained. The metal cladding should be removed and replaced with the original fabric most likely in brick.

4.2.4 NORTH ELEVATION

4.2.4.1 INTRODUCTION

The rear view of the building from the Market Square is not unpleasing with its substantial central wing projecting from the taller main block and the hose drying tower rising between them to the east. The handsome round arched window to either side on the main block add balance to the composition. Removal of the additions on both the west and the east sides of the rear wing, but particularly of those to the east, would greatly benefit the appearance and integrity of the building.

4.2.4.2 SECOND STOREY WINDOWS, MAIN BLOCK

Analysis: These match those described for the south elevation.

Conservation: An important feature of the north elevation, the glazing pattern of these two round arched windows should be maintained and necessary repairs carried out.

4.2.4.3 FIRST STOREY WINDOW, MAIN BLOCK

Analysis: Located towards the west end of the building, this window has a segmentally arched head with arch radiating voussoirs, wood sill and 2/2 interior sash. There are aluminum storms.

Conservation: Retain interior sash and upgrade storms.

items

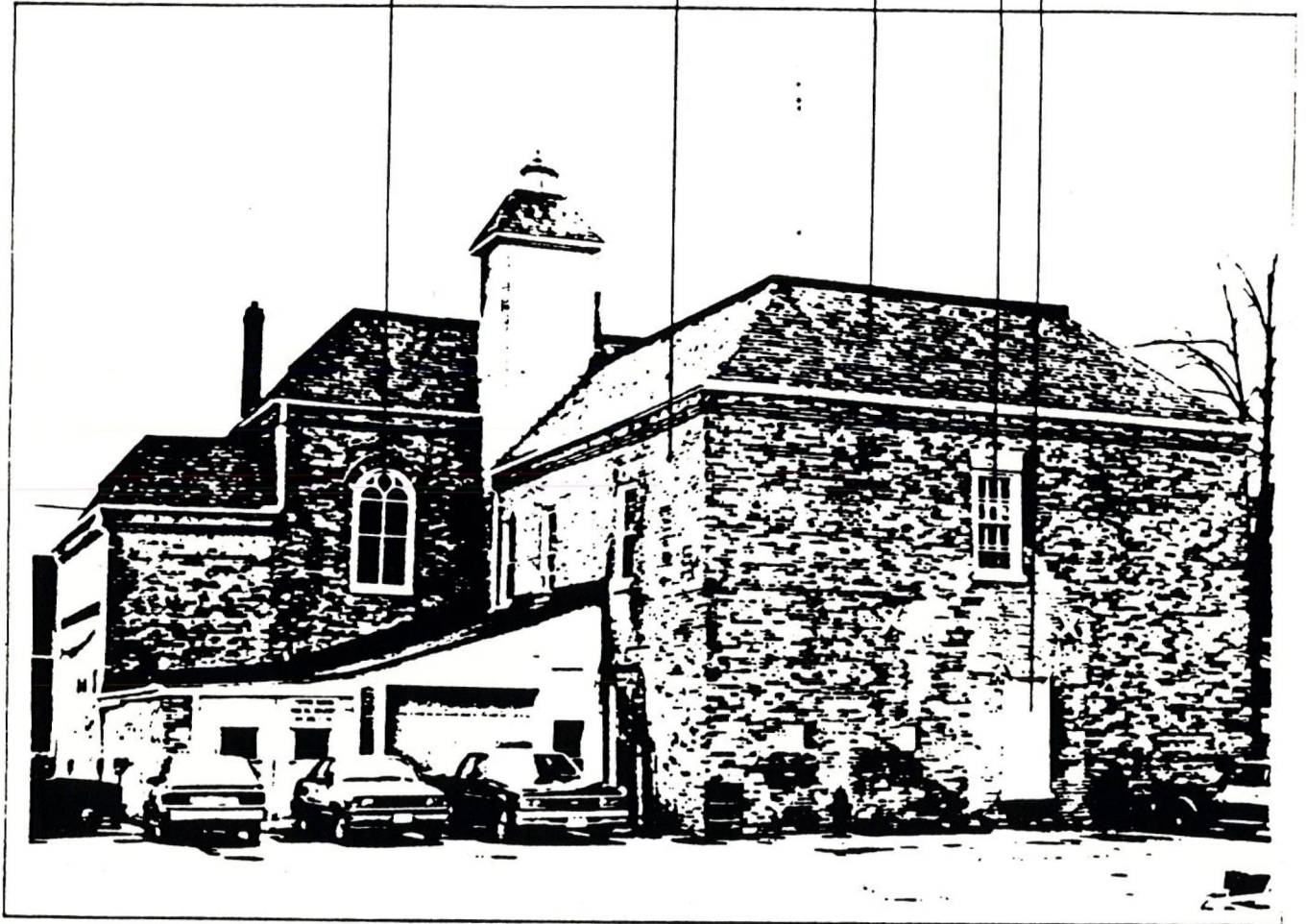
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north elevation analysis

4.2.4.4 ENTRANCE, NORTH WEST ADDITION

Analysis: Rear entrance to this small modern brick addition is at ground level.

4.2.4.5 ENTRANCE, REAR WING

Analysis: An elevated rear entrance to the rear wing of the building is in an area of badly patched brickwork, and is of a utilitarian nature.

Conservation: May be removed if not required and brick patched.

4.2.4.6 SECOND STOREY WINDOW, REAR WING

Analysis: There is a single flat headed window with arch radiating voussoirs centred on the north wall of the rear wing. The interior sash is 6/6, with aluminum storms.

Conservation: Retain interior sash and upgrade storms.

4.2.4.7 BRICKWORK

Analysis: There is considerable deterioration of the brickwork on both the rear wing north face, where the lower four feet show spalling and loss of mortar, and on the main block east wing, which has a long crack on the north wall between first and second storeys. The front addition, to the east, appears to be pulling away from the main block. Two metal tie rod ends flank the centre of the rear addition north wall and a vent pipe projects below the more easterly of the two. A rainwater leader is attached to the north wall of the main block at the west end of the building.

The decorative roof cornice of stepped brick continues across the north facing walls.

Conservation: Considerable repair of brickwork is required on this elevation.

4.2.4.8 ROOF FEATURES

Analysis: A chimney of dark red brick, similar to that described in 4.2.3.8 is located above the roof of the main block west wing near the point where the rear wing joins on.

Conservation: The original positioning of chimneys should be restored and roof cresting re-installed as per historic photographs. The original cedar shingle roof should be re-installed.



GRAND STAIRWAY

The stairs to the Auditorium is a narrow high space of dramatic effect. It is advised that the space be restored and a small balcony be re-instated at the top of the stairs.

4.3 INTERIOR

4.3.1 INTRODUCTION

With the interior space having been substantially re-designed, four areas of special architectural interest were detected, although removal of modern interior finishes may reveal others. The four areas identified in this preliminary study are the second floor Auditorium, the fire engine house, the original main entrance lobby and police offices on the ground floor, main block and the grand staircase.

4.3.2 GRAND STAIRCASE

4.3.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The grand staircase is situated in a large and impressive entrance space, well lit by the transom light and oculus of the east front addition which houses it.

4.3.2.2 ENTRY

On entering the double doors from the street there is a small concrete paved area at the foot of the stairs. This is presently half occupied by a plywood box which presumably served as a storage shed accessible from the outside only.

4.3.2.3 STAIRCASE

The wide flight of painted wood stairs is equipped with a central double handrail of varnished wood with heavy shaped supports. Handrails affixed by metal brackets to the walls on either side are also of varnished wood, but the deep moulded baseboards are painted.

4.3.2.4 WALLS

All walls have been stripped of their original plaster, remnants of which can be seen to reveal, the underlying brick. A tie rod has been inserted between the side walls towards the front of the building at the level of the transom. Evidence of the former doorway can be seen on the east wall at the top of the stairs, including a wood lintel and later baseboard section, the opening being filled in with brick. The east former exterior wall, of the Auditorium, reveals the outline of former openings also.

4.3.2.5 CEILING

The original plaster is still present, coming off the lath badly in the south west corner and above the landing.

4.3.2.7 CONSERVATION

The grand staircase is a dramatic space of soaring proportions. The original fabric and shape should be conserved and the doorway from the landing re-opened on to a reconstructed balcony.

4.3.3 AUDITORIUM

4.3.3.1 INTRODUCTION

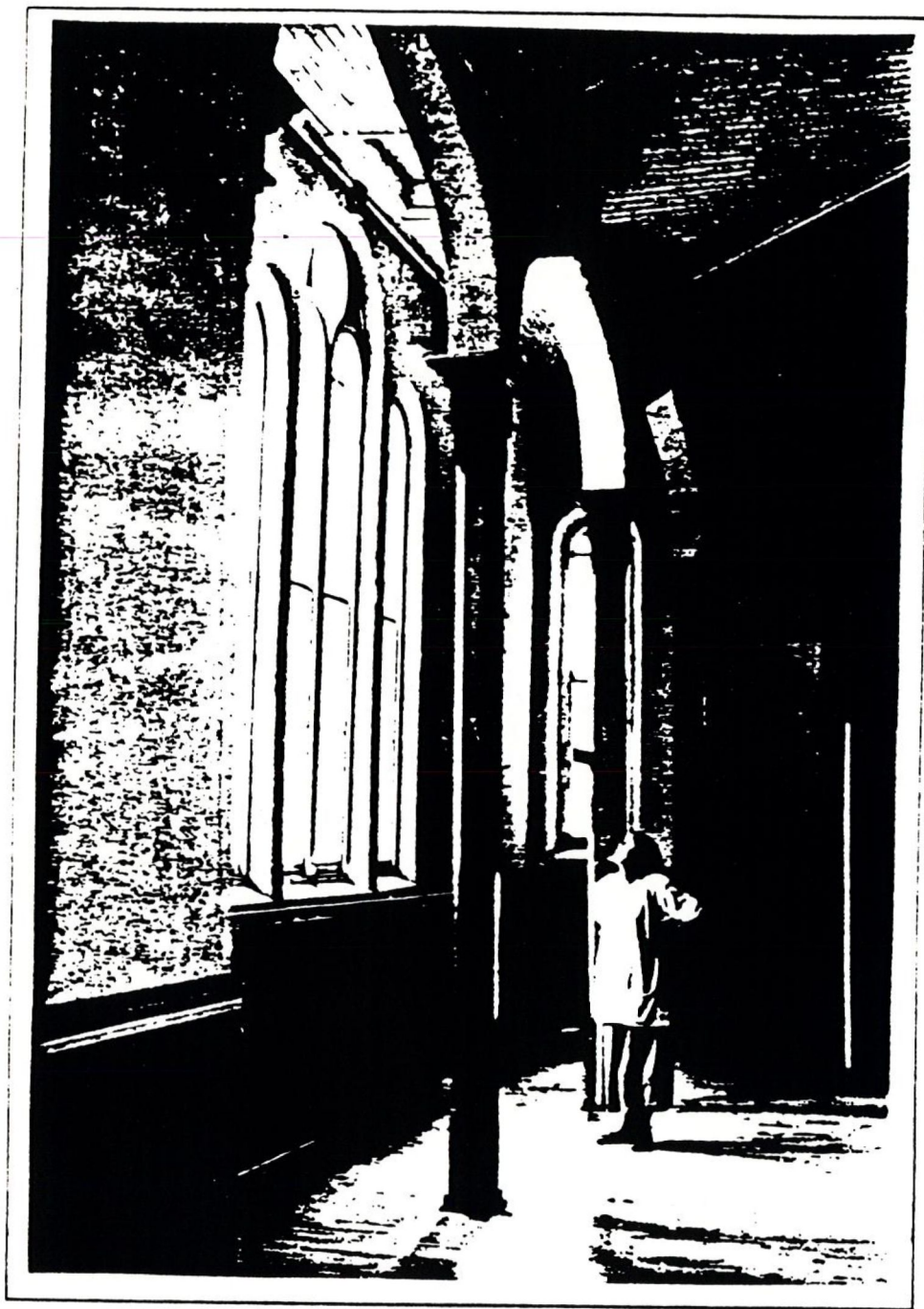
The main block of the building is occupied at the second storey level by the single large space of the Auditorium, unbroken by internal supports except for the arcade that leads into the frontispiece. The Auditorium is a grand and dramatic space, well lit by Venetian windows on the south and west walls and the large round arched windows on the south and north walls. There is a high tray ceiling.

4.3.3.2 FLOOR

The new oak floor of the Auditorium completely conceals any earlier material present. From the position of the old furnace ducts below, it is likely that a hot air register was present in the middle of the Hall floor. The original floor finish was probably maple.

4.3.3.3 WALLS

The original rough textured plaster is still present and in fair condition. The few areas requiring repair show that the plaster and lath were laid directly on the outer walls of double brick. The lower four feet are covered with painted wainscoting, probably applied at the time alterations were made to the stage. A round arched opening, now fitted with a modern square frame and door within the original heavy moulded frame, leads to the rear wing.



AUDITORIUM FRONT BAY

A bay projects out from the south side of the Auditorium supported by Moorish style columns. The large Italianate window is set off well within the bay.

The frontispiece section is divided from the main body of the Auditorium by a screen of Moorish inspiration. The square columns, two free standing and two attached, which support this are chamfered and have decorative capitals.

4.3.3.4 CEILING

The ceiling is divided by mouldings into large squares, two rows of five occupying the flat section and a single row around the perimeter. Within each square, narrow boards are laid diagonally in alternating fashion from one to the next to create a herring-bone pattern across the entire ceiling. Originally stained and varnished, the wood is now painted white. Five electric light fixtures are suspended on chains from the ceiling of the main section. The frontispiece section ceiling has a square trap door at centre front, and there are two round holes for ropes to the west of that.

4.3.3.5 STAGE

The platform stage is located at the west end of the Auditorium and in its present form is faced with painted wainscotting below and framed in with plywood above. Removal of a panel reveals that an earlier stage front, faced with rougher wood, exists some four feet back. The ceiling over the stage is largely unpainted, that is left dark stained.

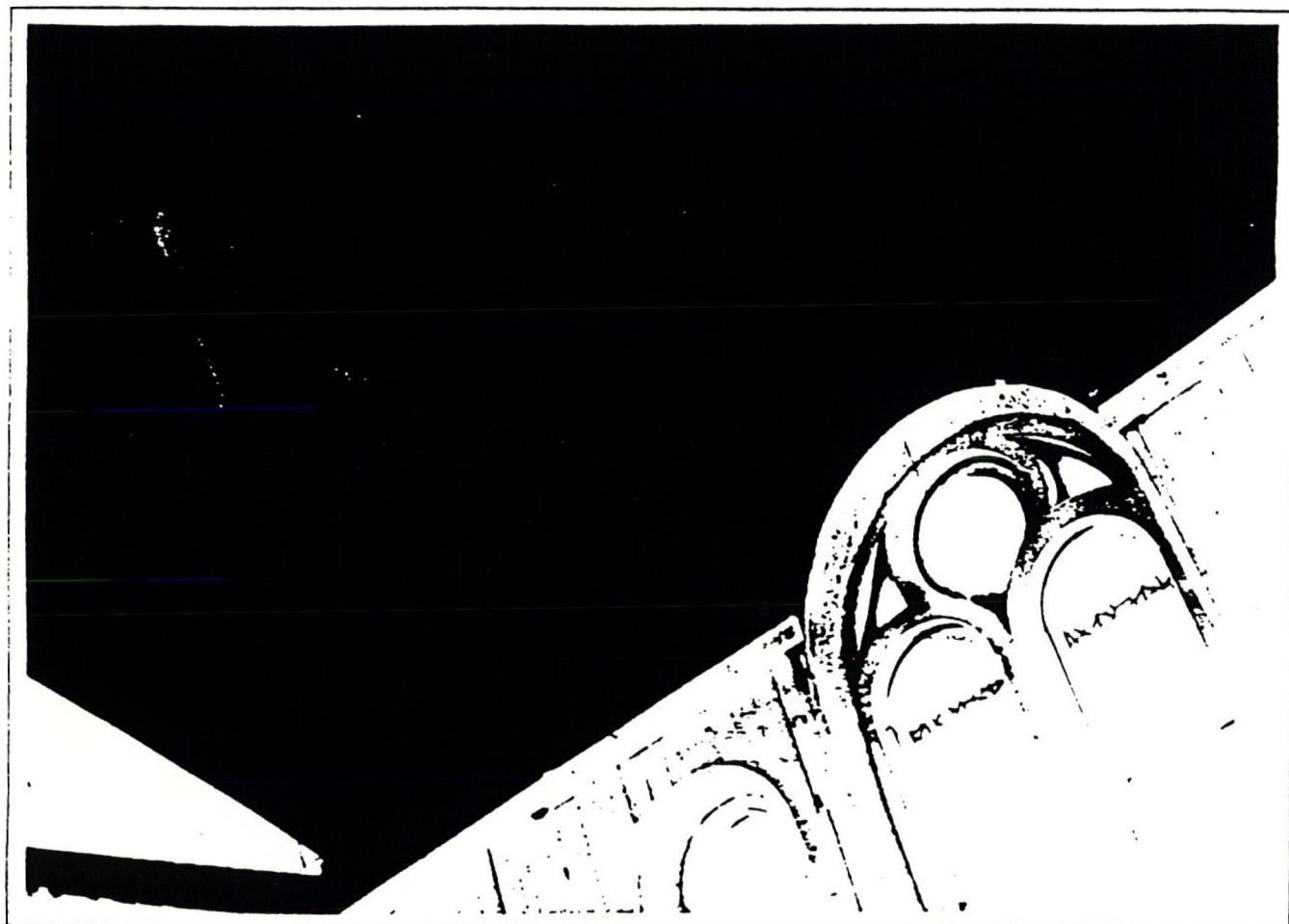
4.3.3.6 CONSERVATION

The Auditorium has both historical and architectural merit. It has been the social and political centre



AUDITORIUM ENTRANCE DOORS

Most of the original doors and mouldings still remain in the Auditorium, such as these handsome double doors. The plan advises their restoration.



AUDITORIUM CEILING

The original varnished wood ceiling still survives in the Auditorium, although a portion has been painted. With restoration this ceiling will be most attractive.



AUDITORIUM STAGE

The Auditorium is a magnificent room with many fine smaller details such as the panelled front, shown here, to the stage.

of the Town for over one hundred years. Many famous Canadians have been present in the Auditorium. It is also of the most magnificent interior spaces in the Town, of inspiring size and design.

It is strongly recommended that this room be conserved and restored back to its original grandeur. Conservation should include the refurbishing of the floor and the repair and restoration of the early wainscotting, plaster walls, wood ceiling, doors, windows, mouldings and stage. In essence, the recommendation is to faithfully restore and re-furnish this room back to its period design, while also meeting present day codes. The result would be very beautiful.

4.3.4 FIRE ENGINE HOUSE

4.3.4.1 INTRODUCTION

The fire engine was housed in the east wing of the main block and of necessity, is a large open space with a high ceiling. It appears to be little changed, and is an interesting historic space worthy of conservation for historical and architectural reasons.

4.3.4.2 FLOOR

There is an old wood floor of narrow plank, a square section of which has been cut out and replaced with plywood towards the front of the building. Three modern heat vents have been inserted along the side walls and a large grating, of earlier date, towards the back on the east side.

4.3.4.3 WALLS

The original wall finish is still present, V-match wainscotting to a height of five feet and plaster above that. There is a plain baseboard and a simple moulded top rail to the wainscotting. A section of the north west wall has been altered, apparently to provide a new doorway. Plywood is now applied around this opening. A pass-through and doorway are also present in the south west section of this wall. The north end of the engine house is open to a later garage space provided in one of the lean-to additions previously referred to. The area above this high archway is faced in V-match.

4.3.4.4 CEILING

The ceiling is covered with a thick layer of styro-foam through which various modern fixtures, such as the garage door hardware, are attached.

4.3.4.5 CONSERVATION

There are few fire halls in such original condition as found in the Ingersoll Town Hall, and it is strongly advised that the original fabric be restored and conserved in the future use of the room. Restoration and conservation should include the original wood floor, wainscotting and plaster walls and ceiling. New fire hall doors in the original design should be built. All original mouldings should also be conserved.

4.3.5 SOUTH ENTRANCE

4.3.5.1 INTRODUCTION

In the late 19th century, as seen in an early photograph, the main entrance to the building was open. The extent of the entry or arcade is not revealed in the photograph, but signs in the flanking windows indicate that the Police Magistrate's Office opened off it to the west and the Police Chief's Office to the east, with a large eight paned sash windows along the inner wall.

4.3.5.2 INTERIOR FEATURES

Removal of ceiling tiles from the modern dropped ceiling near the entrance revealed the original ceiling, fourteen feet high and clad in pressed metal. There is a square trapdoor let into the ceiling just inside the entrance. Further investigation showed that a central corridor led back into the building beyond the present kitchen, as seen by the continuation of the metal ceiling. There is evidence to indicate that tongue and groove panelling was hung from the ceiling to create the walls of this corridor. The ceilings of the offices to either side were of narrow plank, dark stained and varnished. Two of the original supporting columns are present in this space, the one to the east partly enclosed by a modern partition.

4.3.5.3 CONSERVATION

The possibility of an open entrance way leading into the centre of the building from which there were

possibly commercial and institutional uses is intriguing. The fact that there were shops at first floor of early town halls is well known, and is passed down from the English medieval raised town halls with a covered market below. From the historic photographs, an open entrance way is certainly evident. Further investigation will be required to see how these original features can be incorporated in the rehabilitation.