

5.3 Ontario Street, east side



15 and 17 Ontario Street

- Modern, two-storey, flat-roofed, white-brick, commercial building (c.1960).
- Front Elevation – Recent, two-storey building has ground-floor commercial and office space above, and is exemplary in its plainness. Unornamented brick masonry is of common bond throughout, with headers every sixth course. Ground floor comprises wide, recessed bay with large, aluminum-framed shopfront over low brick wall at RH side, and pair of similarly framed sliding doors under large transom window, at left. At extreme LH side is recessed entry to upper floor, with similar single door and transom window. Lintels are formed of white-brick, rowlock headers on steel angles. Signage is wide, back-lit, typical green LCBO sign, face-mounted over recessed bay. Second floor has four, equally spaced, wide horizontal-slider windows in narrow aluminum frames. Sills are narrow, split-faced sawn limestone and lintels as at ground floor, but with standard headers within header course. Wall-head is capped with deep, stepped, pre-finished aluminum flashings.
- Side and rear elevations are non-descript: a series of second-floor windows along the south brick wall, and plain concrete block at the second floor wall on the north side.
- Comments – This building provides a good example of the contrast between traditional and more contemporary construction, being generally horizontal in design and dull in appearance. Back-lit sign, though modest in size, is inappropriate to the historic context. Brogden's Lane extends along south elevation to (future) Rotary Walk adjacent Ganaraska River, and this provides an opportunity for a commercial presence on the lane, an opportunity yet to be realized. On the south side of this lane, there are a number of interesting rear elevations to buildings on Walton Street. These too present various courtyard and terrace opportunities near the river, though thus far only the drive-by pharmacy off Ontario gives the public a reason to come into this area. The empty lot behind the building is another area for potential development, and has the advantage of being adjacent to the riverside walkway. Property to rear is plainly visible from opposite side of the river and new construction could significantly affect the appearance of central Port Hope. Future proposals should be made in consultation with the Guidelines, as well as investigation as to what previously existed on these sites.