

5.6 John Street, west side50 & 52 John Street

- Three-bay, two-storey, painted-brick Victorian Gothic building with upper oculus and wall-head gable (c.1874). Buildings **Designated** under the OHA, Part IV (Easement held by Ontario Heritage Trust).
- Description – Attractive, asymmetrical Victorian brick building has variety of eclectic elements. Brickwork is painted throughout (except in area of apparently recent repair) which, given style, may hide polychromy. Base of building is articulated by projecting courses with bevelled bricks at top course. Entry is set in large, slightly pointed arch at right, having multiple jambs and voussoirs, and band at flush hood-moulding. Doors are pair of tall, curve-headed wooden doors with two upper panes and single panel below. At central bay, rectangular aperture is set between narrow pilasters and has large single-pane sash under transom window. Projecting, canted wooden sill has five wooden brackets below, while wood transom above is plain. At LH side, aperture seems to be altered (voussoirs extend to right of jamb). Door to upper level is simple, four-panel door with bevelled-edge stiles and rails and flat panels. Transom window has old glass and unusual “gothic” wooden frame mounted within. At second floor, dominant element is projecting central bay, corbelled out to meet plane of pilasters below. Central bay contains large oculus within double voussoirs, again with flush hood-moulding. Oculus contains square central sash, with four-leaf inner motif, framed by segmental sashes. At either side, fenestration is pair of narrow, pointed-arch windows with original, two-pane casements under fixed transom windows, all over continuous, thick wooden sills. Apertures have double jambs and voussoirs, again with flush hood-mouldings. At gable, brickwork corbels out to either side, evoking mediaeval practices. Gable contains rendered, blind aperture in ornate, slightly pointed-arch, wooden frame, with unusual half-spindles below sill at either side. Eared wooden hood-moulding is evocative of flush hood-mouldings faintly apparent throughout building. At adjacent wall-head, deep wooden fascia with substantial cornice butts into decorative wooden brackets at either side of building. At gable fascia, trim consists of narrow profiled shingle-moulding.
- Lane Building (former Orange Hall) and Comments – see next page.

5.6 John Street, west side**50 & 52 John Street (continued): South Elevation at Brewery Lane**

- Lane Building – Six-bay, buttressed, red-brick building with steeply pitched roof clad in galvanized sheet-metal panels, and with two large metal ventilators at peak (former Orange Hall, c. 1850).
- Description – At north and south elevations, large, hall-type structure is one storey high, built of load-bearing, hand-made, red-brick masonry with row of headers typically every seventh course. Robust and simple buttresses end with canted upper brick portions tucking under simple eaves. Within each bay is pair of tall, two-pane casement windows separated by wooden mullion, all over thick wooden sills. Mullion extends through transom, with glazed oculus either side (now mostly painted over). Shutters flanking all windows are made of narrow, v-jointed boards braced by three horizontal rails fixed at inner face. At east gable wall, crude, concrete-block lean-to addition is set below unaltered red-brick masonry. Lower, central area contains intriguing, gabled projection which appears, complete with projecting brick course below brick coping, typical of a gable-wall parapet. High-level oculus is boarded up, possibly with louvred vents behind. Brick chimney to left appears to have been truncated just above roof level. At gable, lookouts project from building within and are unprotected, i.e. without fascia. Roof is clad in unusual, long and relatively narrow sheets of corrugated, galvanized sheet-metal, recently painted with suitable, zinc-coloured paint. Original roofing material may have been similar, industrial roofing; or this may even be original. Two circular metal ventilators at roof peak top building which is a mixture of both old traditional and old industrial materials and aesthetics.
- Comments; Front Building - This is an unusual and attractive Victorian Gothic building with many original elements. Recent repairs should be painted; or paint should be removed throughout. Paint, may well polychromy at flush hood-mouldings and perhaps elsewhere. Any further brick replacement should be done using hand-made bricks of suitable size and colour. Metal flashing should be removed at upper LH bracket. Lane Building - Located at rear of site, on Brewery Lane, fabulous old building is plainly visible and presents prime opportunity for enhancement of rear of property. Concrete block structure at west end might well be removed; or enhanced in appearance. Witnesses above suggest a demolished, pitched-roof structure here, which might be reinstated. Gable and south lookouts and rafter-ends should be repaired and a new (painted) fascia (and perhaps soffits) should be added. Chimney top should be rebuilt/repared, and west oculus requires repair and re-opening. Also, two window arches are collapsing at north elevation. Metal roof, which was rather rusty in 2003, has fortunately benefited from recent repainting, and should remain in good repair for many years.