

### 5.6 John Street, west side



#### 68 John Street/47 Pine Street South

- Italianate, buff-brick house (c. 1860) with large verandah, altered entrances, and addition at east side, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The house is **Designated** under the Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV. This large house, set high on a hill, has access via brick gates on John Street and winding drive, and also via more recent, cast concrete gates and drive off Pine Street South.
- East Elevation, Ground Floor - L-shaped house has symmetrical façade facing east, at top of old drive from John Street. Hipped-roof verandah at north, east and south sides has traditional, full-height columns, with turned bases and capitals and square pads at top and bottom. High wooden railing between columns has plain top and bottom rails and simple square-section pickets, suggesting that all elements are recent replacements. Verandah ceiling is finished with narrow, v-jointed boards. East entry, assumed to have been original principal entrance, is reached by broad, central flight of wooden stairs flanked by lions on plinths at either side. Inner doors are behind traditional wooden screen doors, and are set within projecting, rectangular vestibule with traditional, full-height columns at corners. Ground floor windows at either side are within similar square bays (which appear to be recent) and consist of paired 1/1 units at face and smaller, single 1/1 units at sides (all with 1/1 storms). Bays are trimmed with plain corner pilasters and wooden panels below windows. Masonry is buff brick throughout, with projecting quoins extending full-height at corners.
- East Elevation, Second Floor – At upper floor, recent bay windows are as described (with four-pane storms at central units), and flank single door (assumed to have been once a window) to recent, upper verandah having projecting roof curved in plan, supported by four slender columns. Joist framing of roof is plainly visible from below, unlike ceiling at level below. Buff-brick masonry is as at ground floor, with slightly corbelled course near wall-head and with broad eaves having strongly projecting, curved brackets at corners and adjacent bay windows, and similar, smaller brackets between. Hipped roof is clad in modern, profiled sheet-metal, with traditional ogee gutters and corrugated down-pipes.
- South Elevation, Walls and Comments – see following pages.

**5.6 John Street, west side****68 John Street/47 Pine Street South (continued)**

- South Elevation comprises eastern wing (see above) and projecting, gabled wing at LH side. Hipped-roof verandah is as described (but without upper level) and ends at broad wooden stairway to unusual entry (assumed a later alteration, and now apparently main entry) next to projecting gabled wing. Doorway consists of two fixed, door-like panels flanking central, half-glazed door. Door and fixed, half-glazed side panels with applied swags at bottom panels are separated by tapered, fluted columns with traditional bases and capitals. Masonry recess to doorway is lined with triple wooden panels at sides, corresponding to panel and pane heights in door. Transom windows are unusual: segmental-arched window at center, while outer window-heads curve down towards column at central bay and are rectangular at outer corners. Further to right, single door (with Colonial-type screen door) has rectangular transom window, while doorway further to east has pair of full-height French doors. Wooden architraves at latter two openings, and at three, 2/2 second-floor windows, are eared at top and bottom. Masonry throughout is buff-brick with projecting quoins. Gabled Wing, also with projecting quoins, has squared rubble foundation plainly visible. Ground floor has recent, square-plan, bay window with pair of 1/1 front windows having three simple fluted pilasters, set over continuous moulded sill and two plain, recessed panels. Sides have narrow, 1/1 units over similar sills and panels, with entire structure built off visible joists. Hipped-roof is finished in ribbed sheet-metal. At second floor, central 2/2 window again has eared wooden architraves, and small entablature on modest wooden brackets. As elsewhere, brickwork corbels out slightly at upper second floor. Gable has central, vertical oval window framed by header bricks. Gable trim differs sharply from trim elsewhere, and consists of bold dentilled band between upper and lower mouldings, adjacent plain soffits and fascias. Eaves have full returns at gables, and rainwater goods and roofing are as described. A plain (rebuilt), double chimney exists at west pitch.
- West Elevation – Symmetrical elevation at Pine Street South has elements as described, and consists of three-bay front with 2/2 windows throughout, and (recent or rebuilt) hipped-roof entrance porch. Paired larger, and smaller, eaves brackets are grouped unrelated to elevation.
- Walls and Comments – see next page.



### 5.6 John Street, west side



#### 68 John Street/47 Pine Street South (continued)

- Walls and Gates – John Street Walls are built in hand-made, red and buff brick not in keeping with house itself. Wall is built of red brick, with triple course of buff-brick at top and bottom, as well as apparently bevelled, upper buff-brick course at base, most of which is now cement rendered. Hipped coping is, surprisingly, made of wood, now covered with painted sheet-metal, all of which appears original. Wall is divided into bays by projecting piers, with bases and tops as described, and with corners also in buff-brick, framing recessed red-brick panels. Towards north end, concave curve recesses wall back into property, with taller piers having also upper, recessed red-brick panels, marking pedestrian and coach entries, the latter having somewhat wider piers. Fine, gothic iron gates are attractive, but assumed not to be original. Line of old drive beyond is visible, winding its way up to house, and is important component of garden landscape. South Pine Street Gates, and balustraded walls beyond, are more recent and are made of concrete cast into neo-Gothic forms, with bevelled corners, recessed panels and concentric discs, and with complex pyramidal copings with mini-dormers at each face.
- Comments – The house is something of an anomaly, being quite different in style and materials from the walls along John Street, and also unusual within itself. Possibly original building is pitched-roof wing at west side, dating from circa 1850, later altered and extended by Victorian addition to east, and altered again more recently in various areas. Without detailed investigation, evolution of building is hard to discern. House is generally in very good repair, though lack of lintels is causing settlement at west elevation. The John Street Walls are a most unusual and valuable element within the street, and are in need of considerable repair. Failed, or failing, sheet-metal flashings, as well as general weathering and movement, are causing decay in masonry, particularly at upper levels; and low-level render should be removed and bricks be replaced. Extensive reinforcing rods and bars indicate other problems which need to be addressed. Masonry at concave entrance gates and piers is generally in better repair. At the Pine Street South Gates, the piers surface render has many small cracks and will require repair soon. Driveway up from John Street is another valuable component of the historic context of this house, and indeed of John Street. See also the Guidelines for any proposed repair or alterations to aspects of this extensive, diverse and most interesting property.