

### 5.6 John Street, west side



#### 76 John Street

- Dichromatic, two-storey, gabled Victorian house with additions to east and south (c.1870 ff.)
- Original House – Large Victorian house has entry tucked into recess to right of bay window. Porch has sandstone step and landing, and pair of replacement columns support metal-clad pitched roof, with iron cresting at base of slope. Attenuated columns, with entasis, have elongated cylindrical bases with incised upper ring, extending to more typical base, while at top echinus and abacus are closer to traditional norms. Entrance consists of central, half-glazed, coloured-glass door with 3 tall, segmental-headed lights over single panel with wide bolection mouldings. Sidelights are similarly glazed. Glass exists in blue, ochre and umber, with patterns on inside of panes. Mullions and transoms are finished with robust roll-moulding, halved adjacent masonry, and three transom windows have clear glass, with Saltire at central unit. Single 2/2 window (with metal storms) above roof has wooden sill and buff-brick voussoirs at flat-arch. Projecting, gabled block to left is built of red brick, over stone foundation and buff-brick plinth with bevelled top course. Ground-floor bay window has central 2/2 window and 1/1 windows at side, all with wooden sills and flat-arch, buff-brick voussoirs. Louvred wooden shutters are operational and appear authentic but are too narrow for apertures and unlikely on Victorian house. Wall-head has thick wooden cornice, with cast-iron cresting masking metal-clad hipped roof behind. Second floor above has double-course, corbelled buff-brick stringcourse and consists of red-brick masonry with central 1/1 window having sill and shutters as described. Blind pointed arch above is built of tapered, buff-brick voussoirs framing red-brick tympanum built over narrow wooden lintel.
- South Addition - Recent gabled addition matches original house, with similar masonry, typical 2/2 window (without shutters) at ground floor, and pointed-arch, 2/2 window above, rising into gable. South wall contains huge, two-storey window of semi-ecclesiastical nature, with various sash types.
- Fascias and Roofs – Soffit boards are beaded throughout, and wooden fascias have beaded lower edge and deep shingle-mouldings. Roofs are clad in textured, interlocking metal shingles. Gutters are conventional, aluminum profiles with iron hoppers below eaves. A two-vent chimney, in good repair, exists at north end of main roof peak, with base having bevelled top course, chamfered bricks at corners, and with corbelled and dog-toothed bands in lower courses of chimney-head.
- Gabled Addition to East, and Comments – see next page.

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- East Addition - Gabled addition at right is later (c. 1880?) than house behind, as testified by butt-joint in brickwork to right of front door. Red-brick masonry is in common bond at front, and with headers every sixth course at sides. Porch has steps and landing rebuilt in concrete, with four traditional, full-height, turned wooden columns rising to peripheral beam with typical upper and lower mouldings, and hipped roof above. Front window, to right, is 2/2 (with fixed modern shutters) having wooden sill and segmental-arch head with buff-brick voussoirs. Upper level has 2/2 unit and two-pane transom window in pointed-arch aperture as at central gable, with unusual, thick roll-moulding at transom. Wall-head is finished with modest moulding, and front eaves have decorative wooden bracket either side under projecting, v-jointed fascia boards. Small king-post at peak is assumed to be remnant of gable finial. At south elevation, ground floor has 4/4 window (with metal storms), and small, 2/2 window at second-floor dormer beyond.
- Comments – This is an attractive, authentic and, because of the different periods of construction, an interesting house, all in excellent repair. Alterations to front porch are slightly incongruous but tastefully executed, and recent addition to south is convincing, with huge window visible only from south side. Addition in fact serves as good example for new work within the Heritage Conservation District. Roofing material is unsuitable, and original material should be investigated and perhaps one day be reinstated. (Remnant of original material may remain where peak of addition meets front pitch main house; or nail patterns or old photos may indicate this.) House may originally have had no rainwater goods, but installation of more robust, period gutters downspout profiles, would be an improvement. Only metal storm window at front elevation is above front entrance and this should ideally be replaced with a wooden storm instead.