

5.5 John Street, east side35 John Street

- Two-storey, pitched-roof, rendered frame building with central recess and rare tapered casings (c. 1850). Former Midland Hotel is **Designated** under the Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV.
- Front Elevation – Symmetrical, timber-frame building, with three bays either side of large central aperture, is unusual in many ways. Walls are finished in textured, incised render imitating ashlar masonry, which is assumed to be (or replicate) original finish. Walls are trimmed with continuous wooden baseboard, plain corner-boards, and two similar boards either side of central recess, the latter being cut to accommodate tapered window casings. Incised render extends into central recess, which houses modern glass screen and door giving view through to terrace behind. Doors either side of recess are half-glazed with four narrow, vertical panels below. Shallow door recesses are trimmed at jambs and head with panels having bolection mouldings. Adjacent windows are old 6/6 units with narrow sills and plain trim below (and flower boxes at ground floor), framed by tapered architraves (in Greek Revival style). Window-heads have unusual, wooden, crown-like trim over top architraves. At second floor, similar windows (behind metal storms) and architraves exist at all bays, with window-head trim being slightly smaller. Wall is rendered up to deep, cove-type cornice, which is broken by four simple, concave wooden brackets crowning vertical boards. Soffits have plain wide boards. Pitched roof is framed by modest brick parapet at north side and abuts building-wall to south. Parapets is flashed in pre-painted aluminum, roof has light-grey asphalt shingles and rainwater goods are modern aluminum profiles. Two wide, plain brick chimneys rise from just beyond roof ridge, and are oriented parallel to length of building.
- Rear Elevation – East side of building is also rendered, but without incisions simulating ashlar masonry. Fenestration is much altered except at ground-floor outer bays. At second floor, outer windows have been replaced with sliding doors leading to recent wooden balconies. Three original, top-floor 6/6 windows with plain casings remain (behind metal storms), the most southerly being set lower, suggesting a staircase within.
- Comments – This is a rare building with many original elements intact. Most significant are the incised render, the front windows and their tapered-and-crowned trim, the panelled doors and door recesses, the longitudinal chimneys and the five extant 6/6 rear windows.