



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

**RECEIVED**

By Ontario Heritage Trust at 2:38 pm, Jun 16, 2020

Clause (11), Report No. 16, 2007.

**BY-LAW NO. 2007-66**

**A BY-LAW TO AMEND CLAUSE 'D' OF SCHEDULE 'A' OF BY-LAW NO. 8063, "A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY TO BE OF HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL VALUE OR INTEREST"**

**PASSED:** March 6, 2007

**WHEREAS** Section 30.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* provides for the updating of existing designation by-laws; and

**WHEREAS** the 'Reasons for Designation' for 615-623 King Street West do not meet the current provincial requirements; and

**WHEREAS** 615-623 King Street West is a property owned by the City of Kingston; and

**WHEREAS** the cultural heritage values of Portsmouth Town Hall identified within the Building Conservation Master Plan, which was accepted by Council on October 19, 2004, are not reflected within the existing designation by-law dated March 24, 1980; and

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kingston approved on September 19, 2006 Clause 7 of Report 108 which allows for the updating of designation by-laws for City of Kingston property

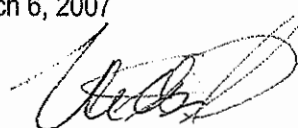
**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Kingston hereby enacts as follows:

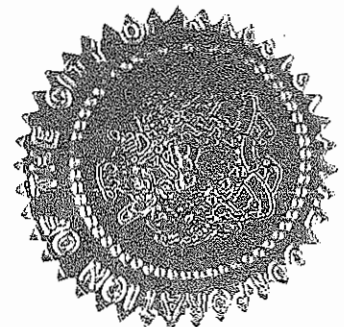
1. By-Law No. 8063 of The Corporation of the City of Kingston entitled "A By-Law To Designate Certain Properties Within The Municipality To Be Of Historic Or Architectural Value Or Interest" is hereby amended as follows:
  - 1.1. Clause 'D' of Schedule 'A' is hereby deleted and replaced with the following schedule Clause 'D' of Schedule 'A' attached hereto.
2. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

**GIVEN FIRST AND SECONDS READINGS** February 27, 2007

**GIVEN THIRD READING AND FINALLY PASSED** March 6, 2007

  
CITY CLERK

  
MAYOR  
ACTING



**Clause 'D' of Schedule "A"**  
**Description and Reasons for Designation**  
**615-623 King Street West**

**Also known as "Former Portsmouth Town Hall", "St John's House" and "Aberdeen Park"**

**Legal Description**

Civic Address: 615-623 King Street West  
Lot/Concession: PLAN 54 LOT 5 B 389, City of Kingston  
Property Number: 101107008011600

**Description of Property:**

The property at 615-623 King Street West, also known as the 'Portsmouth Town Hall,' 'St John's House' and 'Aberdeen Park' is of cultural heritage value not only because of the unique design of the former Portsmouth Town Hall (1865) designed by architect William Cloverdale, completed by John Power, and located on the property, but also as a whole property comprising of a key green space in historic Portsmouth Village and with views of Portsmouth Harbour.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value/ Statement of Significance:**

The cultural heritage value of the property at 615-623 King Street West (also known as Portsmouth Town Hall, St. John's House, and Aberdeen Park) lies in its design values, historical associations, and contextual values.

Design and physical features are integral to the heritage character of the key structure located on the property at 615-623 King Street West. The former Portsmouth Town Hall is important not only because of its individual elements, but also as a whole structure. It is a two-story structure constructed in limestone with roughly course rubble and ashlar quoins. The pedimented gable front, with a pointed arched opening at its center for a louvered vent, with cupola and flagpole places it in the 'Greek Revival' tradition of public buildings. Its architectural character is based on form and proportion rather than adornment. The front (south elevation) is composed of three bays including monumental windows at the second story, which continue as four bays on the east and west elevations. The openings of the ground story are smaller though the main entrance is large enough for double-doors in keeping with its former public assembly use. The openings of the 2nd story are segmentally arched with 9/9 multi-paned sash, while those of the first story have slightly cambered arches and 6/6 sash composed of two pane sizes. A chimney, taken down to just above roof level, occupies the rear peak. The roof is currently asphalt shingled. The large windows of the upper storey are a key attribute as is the remaining barred window of the ground storey that may indicate the location of the original lock-up. The building remains a fine example of mid 19th century Town Hall design.

The historical value of this property lies in its connection with historic Portsmouth Village, (incorporated in 1858) and with two notable Kingston architects: William Coverdale and John Power. By 1863, land has been reclaimed from the marshy area to the south of the village commons (now Aberdeen Park) for the construction of a Town Hall. In 1865, noted Kingston architect William Coverdale, who designed the Rockwood Asylum, was commissioned to design and supervise the erection of the building. However, with

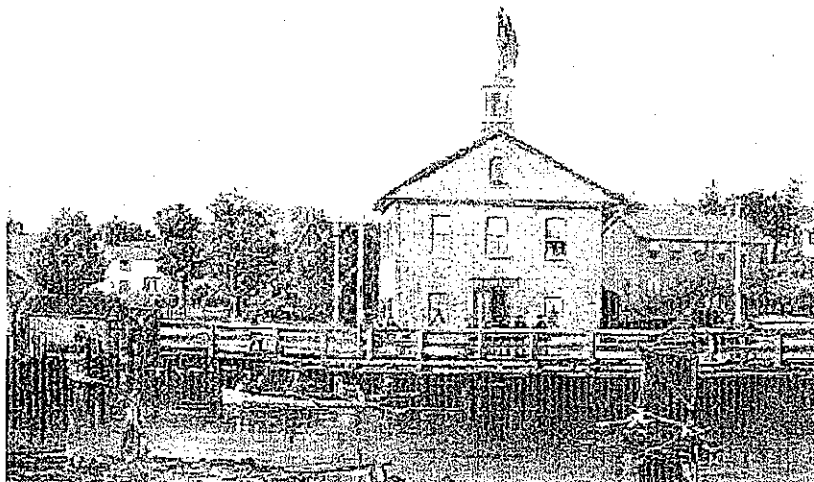
his death later that year, supervision was assumed by John Power as architect with Robert Fischer as the contractor. At its completion, it was described as containing a meeting room, fire engine house, armoury and magazine for the volunteer rifle company, clerk's office, caretaker's apartment and a lock-up. For many years it was the social center of village life. For about 30 years, it has been also known as St. John House, serving until recently as the base for St. John's Ambulance in Kingston.

The contextual value of this property lies in its prominent location in the former village of Portsmouth with Aberdeen Park. The former Town Hall faces King Street and has views towards the busy Portsmouth Harbour. It has always been surrounded by green space which has served to emphasize the Town Hall's importance and which has supported public events, including a local market.

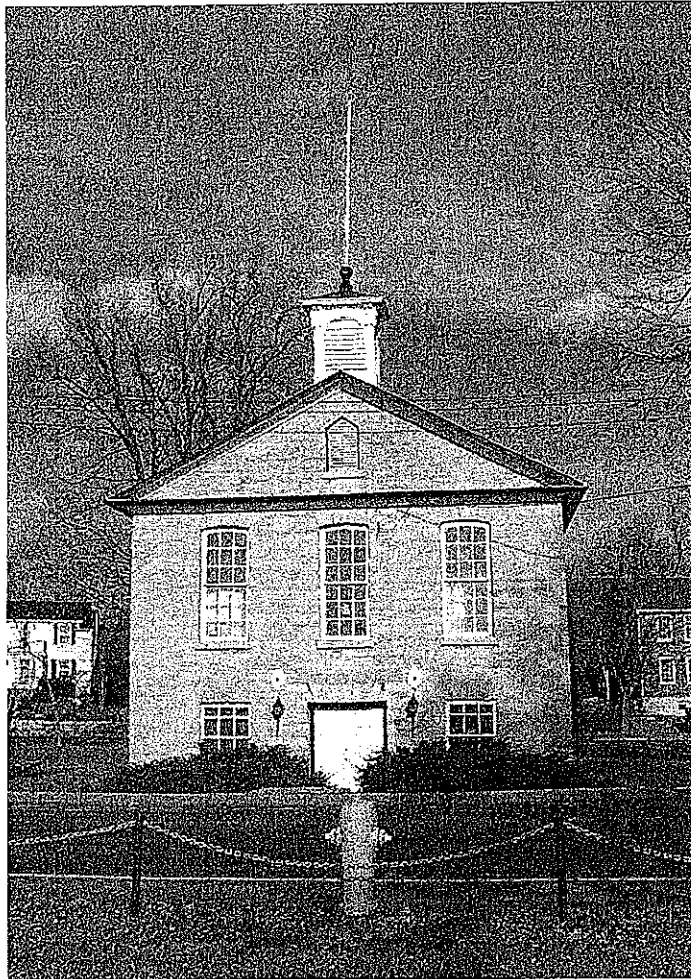
#### **Character Defining Features/ Heritage Attributes**

Important attributes of the property at 615-623 King Street West include:

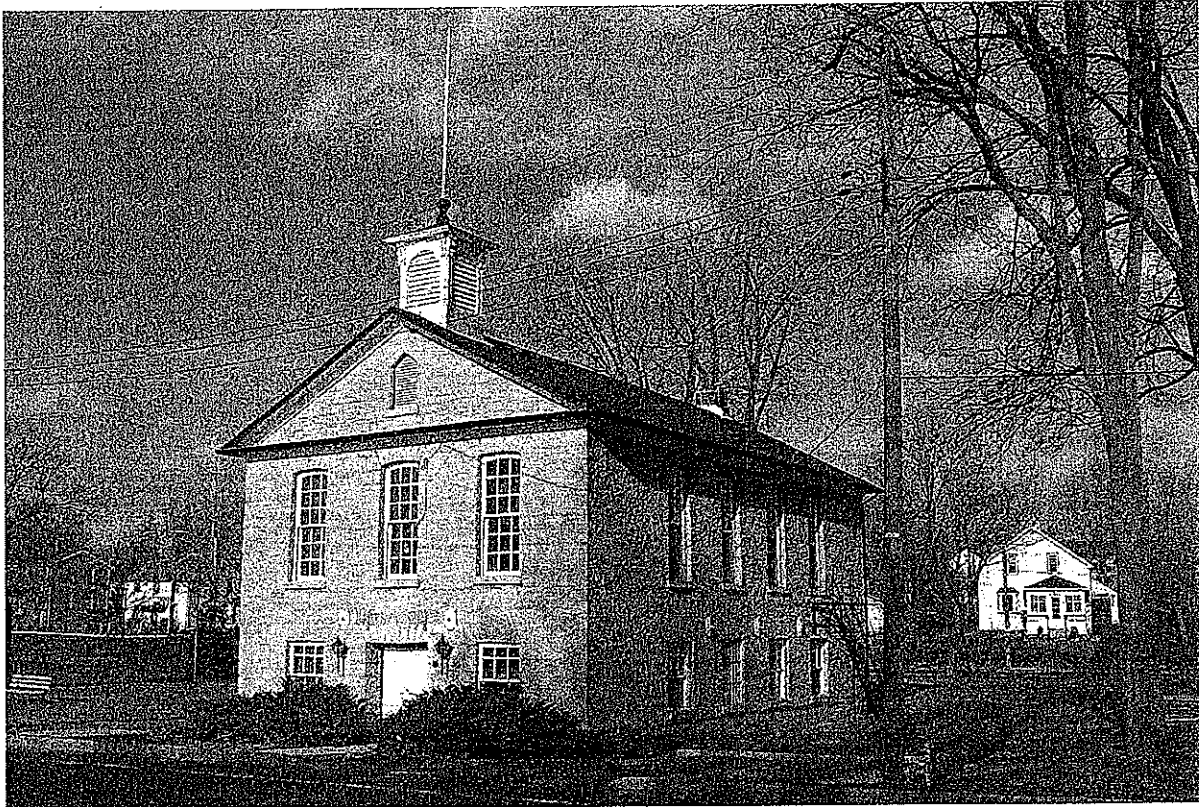
- The former Portsmouth Town Hall:
  - The general form, massing and proportion of the Town Hall structure;
  - The window openings of the 2nd story which are segmentally arched with 9/9 multi-paned sash and the window openings on the first floor which have slightly cambered arches and 6/6 sash composed of two pane sizes;
  - The pedimented gable and returned eaves/cornice;
  - The wood cupola with flagpole;
  - The building's stonework which is roughly course rubble with ashlar quoins;
  - The location of the Town Hall in relation to historic commons which is preserved as a public park; and
  - It exists as a fine example of mid 19th century Town Hall design.
- The property's association with the former municipal entity of Portsmouth Village and with St John's Ambulance;
- The importance of the property as a key landmark, meeting place, and green space of this still distinct area of the City; and
- Its association with several important Kingston architects including William Coverdale and John Power.
- The views from the property to the Portsmouth Harbour.



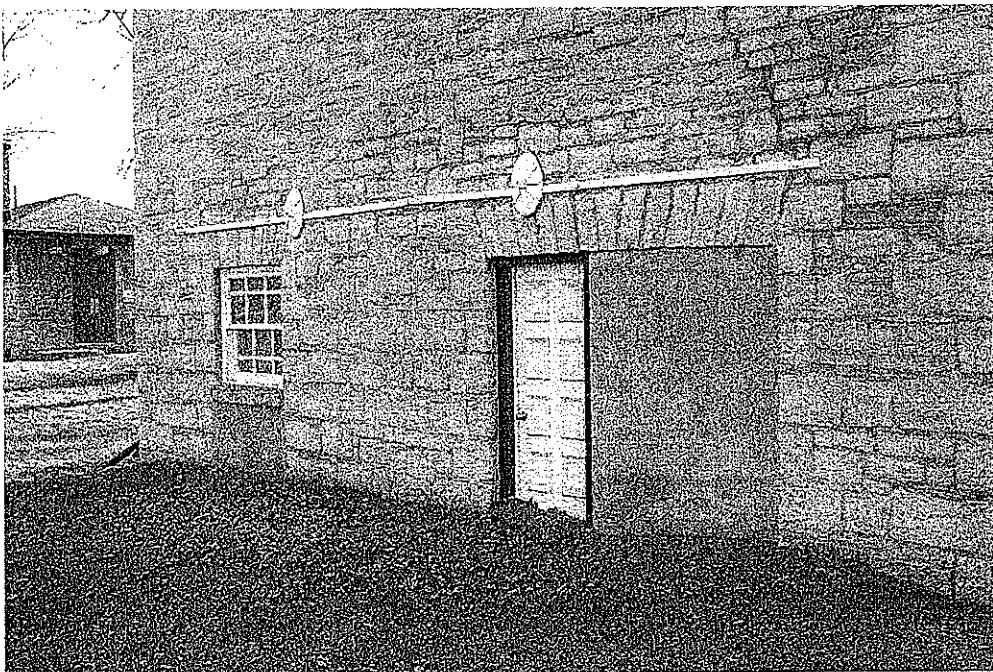
# Historic Depiction of the Portsmouth Town Hall



Portsmouth Town Hall (2007)

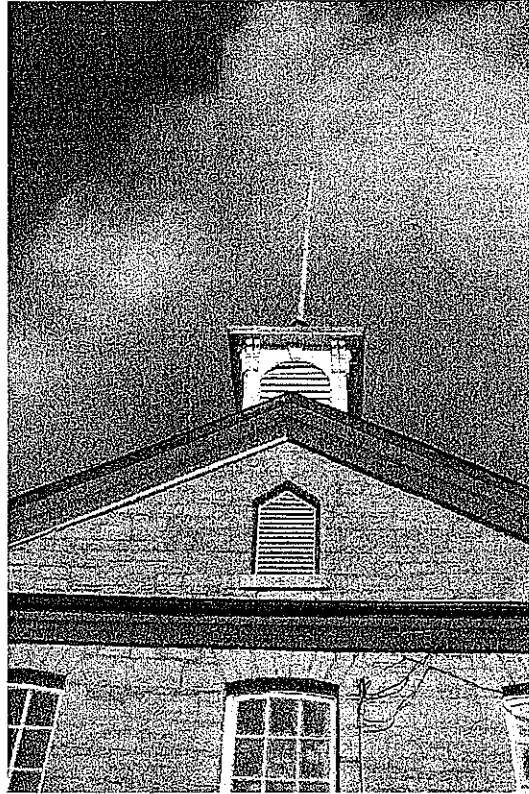


Setting of the Portsmouth Town Hall in Aberdeen Park (2007)

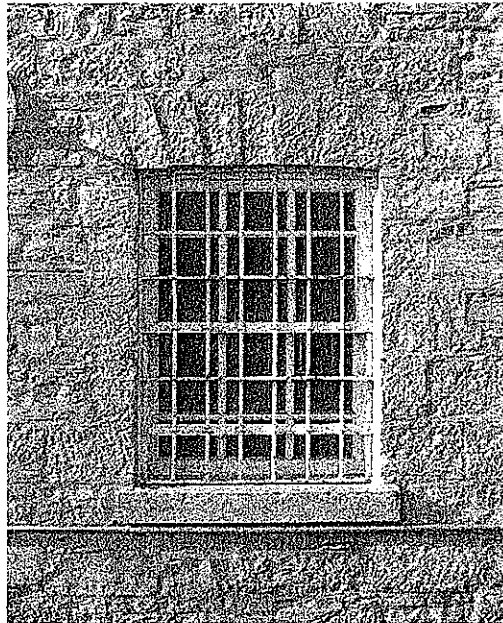


Detail: Rear Façade (2007)

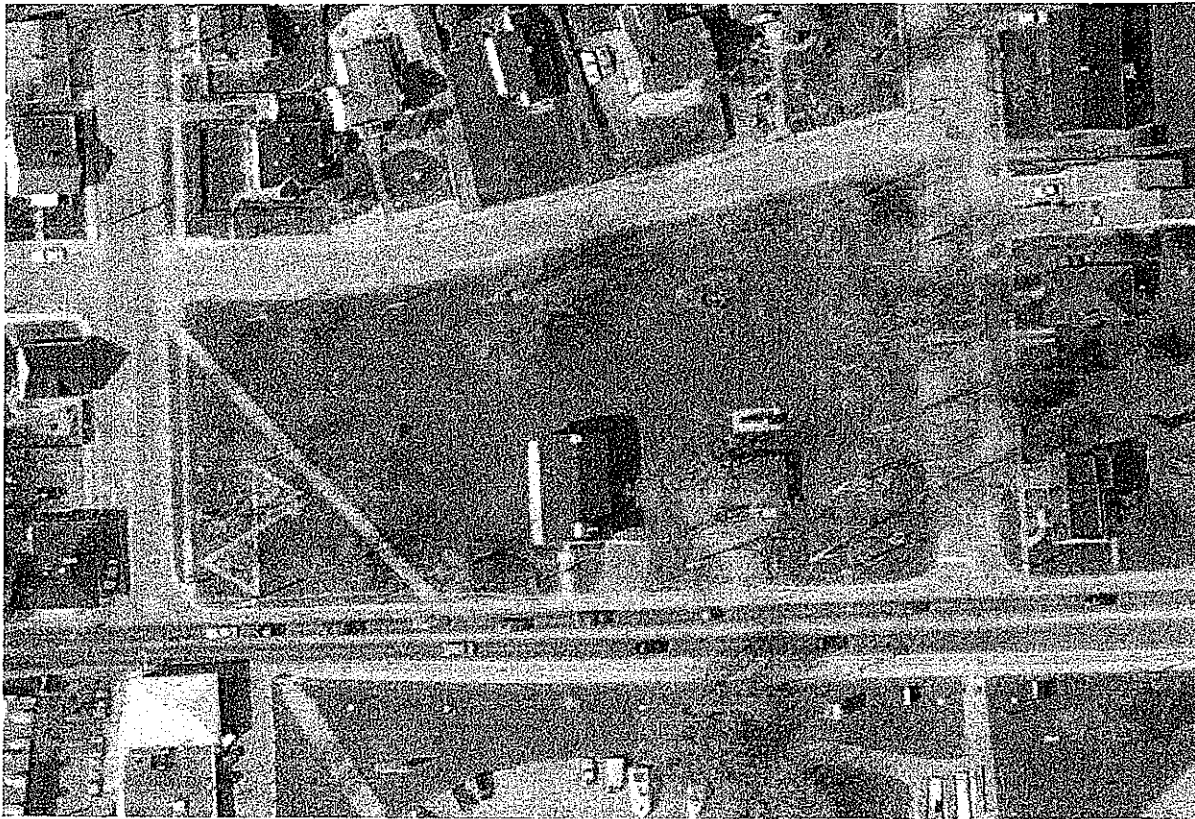




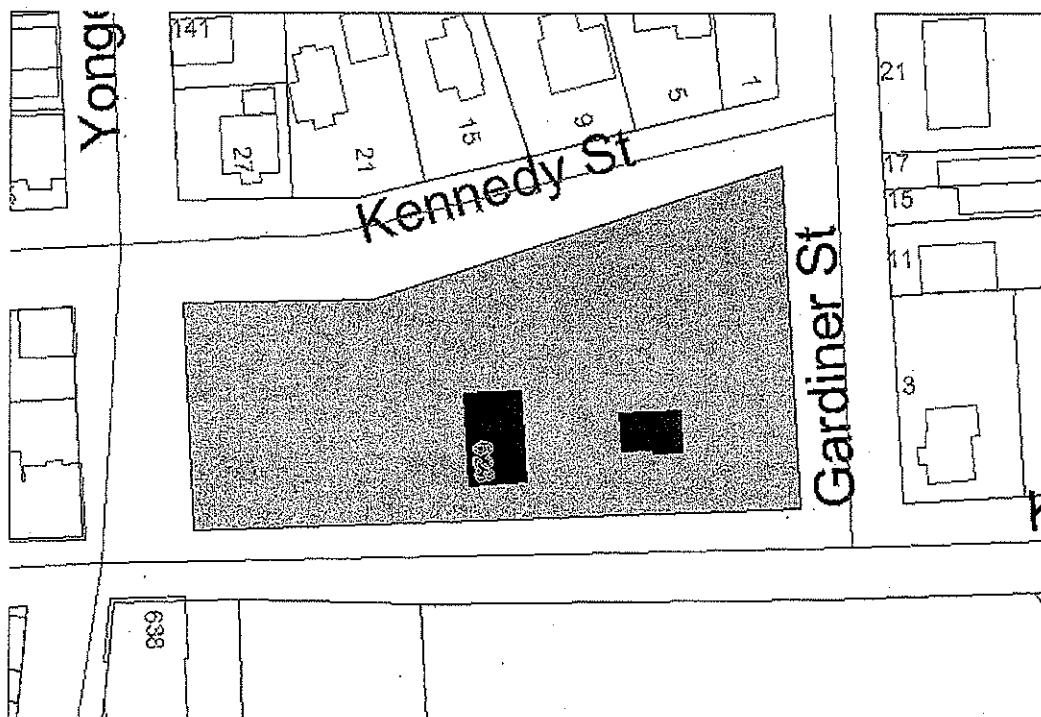
Detail: Front Façade (2007)



Detail: Barred Window (2007)



Ortho Image of Property (2004)



Location of Property