

ARCHITECTURE OF THE NIAGARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Niagara Historical Society & Museum is made up of three independent buildings merged together - the High School building (built in 1875), Memorial Hall (built in 1906) and the Link Building (built in 1971).



Niagara High School

This property was originally part of the Military Reserve. In 1823, James Crooks exchanged his property on the site of Fort Mississauga for the land on which the High School now sits. He later transferred this land to the Niagara Board of Trustees for common and grammar schools. This building was built in 1875 and was the first high school in Town. It operated as such from 1875 to 1947. The Society has been in possession of the building since 1949. It was built as a single-storey rectangular brick building with a medium pitch gable roof. The features of the building are derived from Gothic and Italianate Vernacular styles.

The wood trim, brackets and bargeboard on the building are machine made and are mostly original.



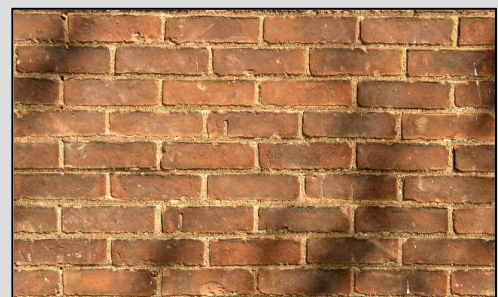
The windows are double-hung divided sashes, six panes per sash (left). The sills of the windows and doors are made from cut limestone



The ridge of the roof is interrupted by the addition of a mansard roof, the top of which forms the base of the belfry (right).



Decorative Italianate style brackets in the eaves, faced with a plain horizontal cornice.



The brick pattern on the front facade is called stretcher bond with flush joints.

Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall was designed by W.B. Allan of St. Catharines as the first museum building in Ontario. This two-storey building with full attic has been unaltered since its construction in 1906. The foundation of the building is constructed from coursed rubble, reported to have been obtained from the ruins of the Indian Council House and Hospital (built in 1816/17 and destroyed by fire in 1881) on the Common.



The roof style of Memorial Hall is called a hipped roof.



All the front windows on the second floor have single-hung divided sashes, which means they have smaller upper sashes with four panes each, and larger lower sashes with a single pane.



The plinth of the walls and the sills of the openings are made of cut limestone, obtained from the John Rogers Dry Goods Store on Queen Street, which was demolished c1900.



Buff brick, with brick "Dart" at the quarters of the circle surround the side gable. Only four buildings in Niagara-on-the-Lake have the use of buff brick for decoration around openings.



The columns on the porch are spanned by a corbelled arch.

The Link Building

This building was constructed in 1971 – 73 to join Memorial Hall with the High School Building.

Eight of the front windows were obtained from the Parish of St. Mark's Church, which were removed from the Parish hall in 1965.

