



c.1982 Built Heritage Inventory

## 536 LaHave Street

This building was once the site of the Belmont Hotel, the CN railway hotel for the nearby train station and a rival to the Fairview Inn and Clark's Hotel. It was freshly built in 1908 for the Berringers – Timothy and Abertha – who ran the hotel until 1966 when it passed to Kathleen Berringer, a school teacher. In 1978 Randall and Leona Rockwell acquired the hotel, as well as another house (with the same civic address) that was on the lot. The hotel was converted to apartments in the late 1970s, likely when the Rockwells bought it.

The grandeur and size of railway hotels can be gleaned from the Belmont, even though this was a quite modest version compared to other palatial hotels in bigger cities. Built in the Dutch Colonial substyle of Colonial Revival architecture that was ever so popular at the turn of the century, it had a gambrel roof. Interestingly enough, as with many gable roofed Colonial Revival houses, the eaves returned along the front face of the house. A belt course distinguishing the second and third stories continued the eye-line and closes in the gable. On the side, at least two pedimented dormers were noticeable, with enclosed gables projecting prominently over the dormer windows. These were in style as well, with the Queen Anne Revival style that was in the latter part of its lifespan. The many-windowed, gabled protrusion in front, above the

veranda, however, was likely not original. It appears to house a door, perhaps suggesting there was once a second storey balcony above the flat veranda roof, or a staircase to an upstairs apartment or hotel room. The flat veranda roof was simple and rectangular, and continues on both the front and right side of the hotel, casting the first floor windows in a deep shadow, aided by the luscious trees on either side. The roof of the veranda was supported by square, capital columns, showing a turn away from the tendency of fancy turned post and spindle work supports. There is no balustrade as well, simply shingled sides, though this as well may not be original. The veranda is interestingly entered from the corner, with the edge of it running diagonally where the steps are. As the front door is on the right hand side of the front of the house, it adds asymmetry to the entrance, only then becoming common in architectural styles.

The Berringer's Belmont Hotel no longer exists; it was torn down between 1994 and 1995 to make way for the Superstore development.