

**York House
193 York Street
(Former York Street School)**



Description

The York Street School, which had been designed by J. C. Dumaresq and built by Joshua Limerick, was completed in 1893. Built upon the site of the Baptist Seminary, this structure served as the Fredericton High School until 1925. The imposing three-storey brick structure fronts on the west side of York Street between George and Brunswick Streets.

Statement of Significance

The heritage value of this structure resides in its historic function as a school building. J. C. Dumaresq, who had designed the Provincial Legislature and the Charlotte Street School, drew the architectural plans for this building. Joshua Limerick, who built the Charlotte Street School, collaborated once again with J. C. Dumaresq during the construction of the York Street School. This school, which bears some resemblance to the Charlotte Street School, was modelled after a Halifax school designed by Dumaresq.

In response to an aging building and crowded classrooms, the Fredericton School Board decided in 1891 that it was time to erect a new school, one that would continue to accommodate a growing student well into the future. The York Street School was constructed upon the site of the Baptist Seminary, which had been removed to George Street to make way for the new building. The Baptist Seminary, which had been erected in 1833, continued to house students while the new building was under construction.

Although it was intended that the foundation of the Baptist Seminary might be utilized in the construction of the school, only a few of the original stones became part of the new foundation. The stone used in the trimmings had been supplied by a quarry at Dorchester, while the bricks came from Michael Ryan's brickworks located at the west end of the town plat.

The York Street School served as a high school until 1925, when a new building had been erected at the corner of George and Regent Streets. The former high school housed elementary grades after the high school students moved into the new school.



Character-defining Elements

The character-defining elements associated with the former York Street School include:

- 3-storey brick structure with stone trimmings
- projecting central tower
- mansard roof
- projecting windows interrupt mansard roof line
- large, regularly spaced rectangular windows
- carved front arch keystone with 1891 dating the commencement of construction
- use of local building materials
- expression of local building skill and craftsmanship

Source: City of Fredericton Local Historic Places Register, York House Statement of Significance, July 2009.