

## Heritage Value

The heritage value of 523 Main Street lies in its:

Historical Associations:

- Dr. George Pickels' Pharmacy (1891–1901): Originally moved to its site from across the road (possibly from a lot purchased by Pickels in 1886), the building served as Mahone Bay's first drug store, anchoring early commercial activity.
- First Telephone Office (1886–early 1900s): Housed the switchboard for the local telephone company (founded by F.E. Wade), operated by pharmacy employee Orren Joudrey, who also managed billing.
- Taylor Drug Company/Olive & Taylor Pharmacy (1906–1964): Leased and later owned by Bridgewater-based pharmacists, continuing its medical-commercial role.
- The Pine Shop (1964–?): Purchased by Reverend George and Ann Ernst for \$3,000, the building became an antiques store, reflecting Mahone Bay's shift toward cultural and artisanal economies.

Community Significance:

- Relocation and Adaptation: Its movement in the late 19th century and repeated reuse exemplify rural Nova Scotia's pragmatic building traditions.
- Intersection of Commerce and Technology: As both a pharmacy and telephone exchange, it served dual roles in community infrastructure.

Architectural Interest:

- A rare surviving example of Classical Revival influence in a vernacular commercial-residential building, with well-preserved details noted in heritage reports (e.g., Ron McDonald's 1977 Parks Canada study).

Historical Integrity:

- Minimal alterations since the 19th century, despite functional changes.
- Restoration legacy (e.g., Grammer's bookstore renovation).

Siting & Context:

- Relationship to the brook, harbor, and Main Street, echoing its original lot description (Bk 60, p. 221).

## Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the building's heritage character include:

- Returned eaves
- Dental/classical moldings (reflecting Classical Revival style).
- Front-gable form with symmetrical façade.
- Original wood cladding and fenestration patterns (where intact).