MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 10 Little Hope Street

Known as: Peter Rice Randall House

Architectural Style: Regency

Date Built: Circa 1859

Date Designated: May 21, 2002 to By-Law. No. 25/2002, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: RIDOUT PLAN PT LOT 5



Architectural Description

The house is a one-and-one-half storey frame cottage with a gable roof extending north south, anchored by two brick chimneys at either end. The house could be described as Regency period. It has a symmetrical facade with two triptych windows on either side of the main entrance door. The cladding is an ashlar wood siding with siding scored to resemble stone blocks. This is a common early cladding in this area of Port Hope. The triptych windows consist of a central panel double hung four over four windows. The overall window composition has a large wood entablature and trimmed wood pilasters either side, creating an elegant window composition in scale with the overall facade. This gives the house a classical appearance, indicative of Regency details of this period. The front door has sidelights and a transom window over the door, headed by a delicate entablature. The entrance is arrived at by a wood set of steps and wood porch with wood picket rails.

The eaves are a simple wood cornice and soffit with a fascia board making the transition to the roof. The end gables project and the wood cornice has a return making a punctuated end to the gable fascia. The roof is a cedar shingle roof, typical of the period. The north end elevation has a triptych window as on the front, centred on the main gabled facade and a six-over-six second floor window centred above, creating a balanced facade. The south elevation has two second floor six-over-six double hung windows. There is a rear kitchen extension clad in a simple wood clapboard siding. Two brick chimneys accentuate the end of the gables and are corbelled brick of modest dimensions.

This house is an excellent example of a storey-and-a-half Regency period cottage. The ashlar wood siding is of particular interest and is exemplary of many houses in the area, once known as English Town or Upper Town in Port Hope. The windows are of particular significance due to their ornate wide entablature and elegant Regency period proportions. The front entrance is a good example of entrances of this period of architecture, with its proportions exaggerating the height and breadth of the doorway.

Historical Abstract

Lot 5 of Plan 1, the Ridout Plan, was landacquired by Toronto banker, Thomas Gibbs Ridout, in 1832. Subdivision of the Lot 8 began in 1847. In 1853, Richard Coffin, a carpenter, purchased part of lot 5 and constructed 267 Ridout Street in circa 1856.

In 1859, he sold the southerly section of his lot to Peter Rice Randall, also a carpenter and builder. In the same year and into the next year, Randall took out two mortgages suggesting the house was under construction during this period.

Randall (1825-1906) was born in Ontario in 1822, and had established himself as a carpenter and builder in Port Hope during the prosperous 1850's. His father, John P. Randall was of Loyalist stock and appears in early assessments for Hamilton Township in 1805. In business directories of the period, Peter Randall lists his business as P. Randall and Brother. He had four brothers of whom Maitland and Addison were carpenters. Among his later building achievements, he constructed the YMCA in 1874 (50 John Street). In 1874, he was the superintendent overseeing the

construction of the Methodist Church on South Street. He served as Mayor of Port Hope from 1879-1882. Along with William Craig, he was a member of the Baptist congregation.

Randall lists his residence as being on Baseline (Dorset Street) from the 1850's onward, and he is thought to have resided in the two-storey frame house across from Wimbourne (98 Dorset Street West). It is not known if this property on Little Hope Street was an investment or residence of family members. In 1867, Peter R. Randall sold the property.



