MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 141 Walton Street

Known as: William Cox Lelean House

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District - Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1857

Date Designated: April 21, 1986 to By-Law No. 28/86, SCHEDULE B-8

Lot Description: PLAN 21 LOT 2



Architectural Description

This two storey, stretcher bond brick, urban style of dwelling is similar in many ways to other townhouses and commercial blocks of the same era on Walton Street: see 16-26 Walton Street, 34-46 Walton Street and 99-105 Walton Street. This three-bay house with side entrance is a handsome structure with pilasters and projecting caps, and a parapet gabled roof with end chimneys. The ornamental brick cornice to the eaves contains dog toothing. The windows have flat arches of radiating brick and lugsills. A fanlight is in each parapet gable. A relatively recent addition is to the rear of the building.

Historical Abstract

On the 1853 Wall and Forrest map of Port Hope, James Madison Andrews appears as the owner of this property but no house is shown. William Cox Lelean, Walton Street dry goods merchant along with his brother, Samuel, bought the large wedge-shaped section of land from Andrews in 1857. It is probable that Lelean built the house at this time.

William Cox Lelean (1833-1872) and his brother Samuel (1836) were born in Megavissey, Cornwall. They emigrated to the United States in the mid 1850's then came to Canada and established a dry goods store on Walton Street. Directory listings describe their specialty as "importers and dealers in dry goods, millinery, boots and shoes." They were active Methodists, and William held the position of President of the Young Men's Christian Association in 1871.

In 1871, Lelean sold a part of his fairly large Walton Street holding, including his own residence, the neighbouring house to the west (143 Walton Street). He sold this house to Port Hope blacksmith, William Evans. William Cox Lelean moved to Leavenworth Kansas in 1872 due to ill health and died the same year at the age of 38. His brother Samuel continued to run a dry goods shop on Walton Street in two different locations under the name S. Lelean or Leleans located in the Quinlan Block (78-92 Walton Street), and in the Tempest Block (62-68 Walton Street).

This house remained in the possession of William Evans until his death in 1937 when it was transferred to his widow, Sarah Francis Evans.





Architectural Detail

This three bay house with side entrance, pilastered front and parapet walls with double chimneys has proportions of the Classic Revival style. The detailing includes a dog-toothed frieze and the original windows would have been six-over-six sash. The east gable has a half moon window now decorated with a fanlight lighting the attic space.