MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 30 Barrett Street

Known as: Barrett's Terrace

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1860

Date Designated: October 23, 1989 to By-Law No. 91/89, SCHEDULE B-3

Lot Description: PART TOWN PLOT LOT 35



Architectural Description

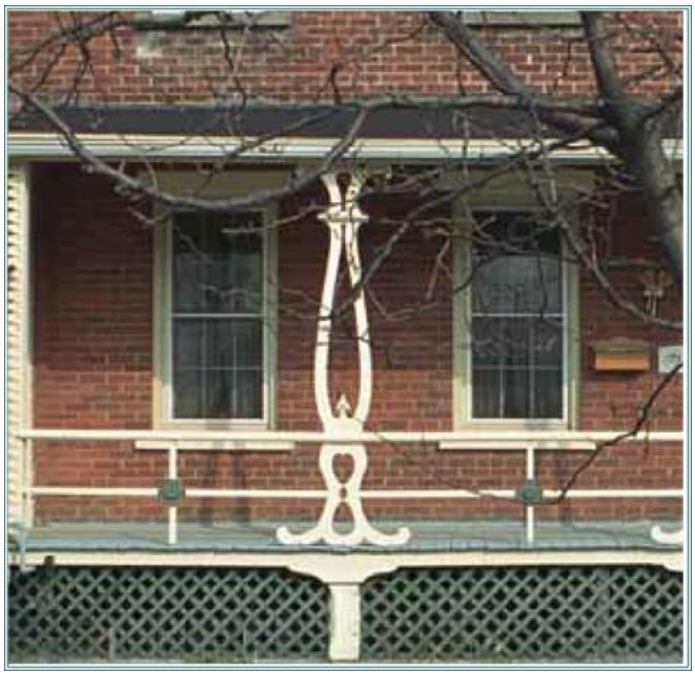
This brick structure is a part of Barrett's Terrace, a very significant row of cluster dwellings built about 1860. It stands two storeys high with a flat roof sloping to the rear. Atop the roof is a plainly styled belvedere, with 6 panes on each side and 2 at each end. Unlike some of its neighbours, it retains most of its original features, notably six-over-six sash, entrance with sidelights and transom, and most of all, the verandah complete with lyre-shaped posts. The crenellated brick cornice is lost but surviving examples on neighbouring units can easily service as inspiration for restoration.

Historical Abstract

Along with adjacent mills and the nearby Octagon House, Barrett's Terrace is part of the legacy of William Barrett and his family, a prominent miller and entrepreneur in Port Hope in the last half of the 19th century. William Barrett Jr. built Barrett's Terrace in the early 1860's to provide accommodations for the English labourers and their families brought to Canada to work in his nearby mill. In 1856, Barrett built his residence, Port Hope's unique example of an Octagon House, located directly north of Barrett's Terrace on Martha Street.

William Barrett (1784-1861) left Bathpoole, Cornwall, England in 1831 to launch a milling operation in Canada. In England, his family owned an established milling enterprise. He made the journey to Canada along with his wife Elizabeth and children. Barrett built two factories, one on either side of the river at Barrett Street. The mills included a sawmill, and wagon and carriage making business with a blacksmith shop, and grist and flour mills. There was a bedstead and chair factory, and carding and cloth-dressing establishment. Mr. Barrett also leased workshops to other business enterprises. The descendants of William Barrett carried on the operation of the mills into the early 1900's. William Barrett Jr. (1817-1875) operated the mills with his father, and then his son, Harold (1858-1908) succeeded him.

While the row houses were originally built to house Barrett's mill workers, the terrace later became a desirable residence for young families. In Katherine Eaton Cannell's memoirs, Jam Yesterday , life in Barrett's Terrace in the 1890's and early part of the 1900's is vividly described. The terrace is the largest and the grandest of the town's several examples of row housing, and remains a dominant landmark in the neighbourhood. Individual units in Barrett's Terrace were sold in 1909.



Architectural Detail

Six over six sash and lyre shaped posts.