MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 34 Barrett Street

Known as: Barrett's Terrace

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1860

Date Designated: April 11, 1988 to By-Law No. 39/88, SCHEDULE B-11

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT 35



Architectural Description

This property is a unit within Barrett's Terrace. Like its neighbours, it is a brick structure, three bays wide and standing two storeys high with a flat roof. The front entrance, with rectangular proportioned sidelights and transom, is placed in a side hall position. The other bays provide for windows, with lintels and sills intact, and contain remnants of the original six over six paned sash. Some period elements namely the lyre-shaped renderings of the trellis verandah, the crenellated parapet on the façade, and shutters have been lost but inspiration for accurate replacements can be found in neighbouring units or from readily available archival photos. A skylight, similar to those on other units has been altered somewhat, but is a feature worthy of restoration. The current gable-roofed porch should not be considered an historical asset.

The interior has been divided into upper and lower rental units. Upstairs, little remains of the original character, although the main floor contains its fireplace, pine floors, much of the original plaster and remnants of the original side hall plan.

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

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