MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 239 Ridout Street

Known as: Armstrong Cottage

Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage - Regency

Date Built: Circa 1856

Date Designated: June 9, 1997 to By-Law No. 21/97, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: LOT B S/S RIDOUT



Architectural Description

The cottage is brick construction with a cottage roof and gable portico. The front entrance is graced by a semi octagonal wood portico of generous dimensions. The bungalow has a "walk out" basement and the original cottage has had several additions to the rear over the years. One addition was an enclosed sun porch built around the turn of the century and the other a large addition, now housing the kitchen, built prior to 1900. Both additions are compatible with the original house and are each worthy of designation.

The porch is a classical proportioned colonnade of wood columns with a wide frieze entablature with a dentil moulding. The front door has sidelights and a transom of handsome proportions. Over the door in the gable is a small elegant fanlight. The front windows in the house are Venetian consisting of a large six over six double hung windows that appear to be original. Lintels over the windows are brick flat arch construction.

The brick on the house has been painted and has seen many different colours hence it is difficult to ascertain the original brick colour but judging from other similar cottages, it is likely red brick with perhaps buff brick detailing. There are two elegant corbelled brick chimneys on the east side of the house. The rear sun porch is of interest. It is a frame sun porch with large windows and shingle cladding. It is an attractive addition to the house and is a good example of porch construction of the early part of the 20th century.

The interior of the house is well maintained and exhibits the original plan with a large central hall, which widens at the rear to incorporate a dining room. Doors and trim are original and exhibit the finish carpentry of the mid 1800's. The fireplace is a classically detailed wood surround with a brick hearth. The interior structure of the house is large hewn beams with dovetailed joist connections exhibiting early construction techniques. This house is an excellent and well-maintained example of the Ontario Cottage of which there are many in Port Hope and is worthy of designation.

Historical Abstract

Lot B of the Ridout plan is the first lot within the Ridout Subdivision, thus it is at this point that the street name changes from Walton to Ridout. The property on which the house is situated was part of the original land acquired by Toronto banker, Thomas Gibbs Ridout.

Ridout (1792-1861) was the son of Thomas Ridout, the Surveyor General of Upper Canada. He was a cashier at the bank of Upper Canada from 1822 to 1861. The Ridout Subdivision was Lot 8 in the First and Broken Front Concession of the Hope Township survey. His land holdings extended from Victoria Street on the west, to Jocelyn Street in the north, to east of Julia Street in the east. This land was Clergy Reserve, transferred to King's College in 1828 then registered to Thomas Gibbs Ridout in 1832. He transferred the lot to the Bank of Upper Canada and bought it back in 1844. Subdivision of the property and sale of the lots began in 1847. As this area of Port Hope developed, it was commonly referred to as "Englishtown".

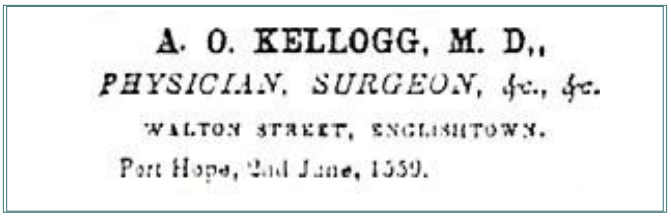
In 1855, he sold a small parcel to Robert Armstrong. Armstrong, in the business directory of 1851, is listed as the deputy registrar residing on Charles Street. In later

assessments, he is a lumber merchant. Armstrong may have built this property with the intention of selling it upon completion, which he did a year later at a dramatically increased value, indicating that the house had been built in the interim.

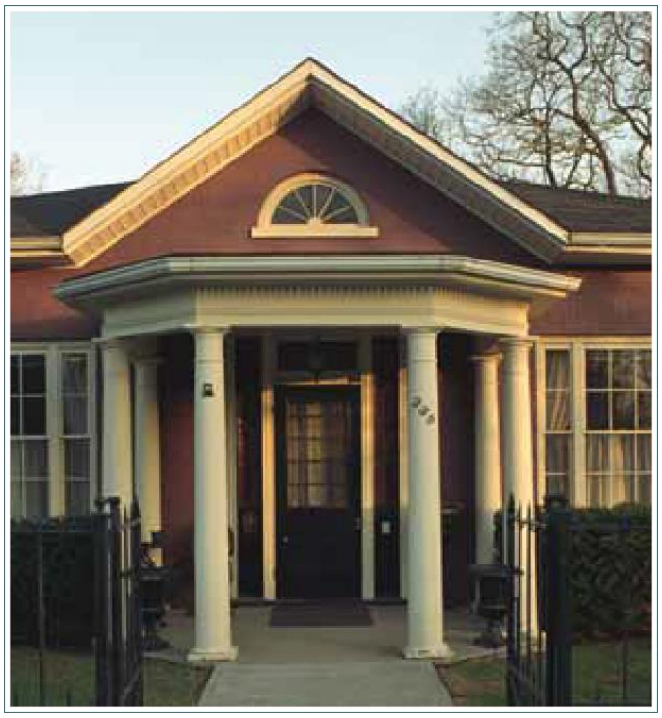
In 1856, Dr. Abner O. Kellogg purchased the property and resided there for seven years until he experienced financial difficulties. Dr. Kellogg was born in the United States in 1821, trained as a medical doctor and established residency in Port Hope. In an 1856 newspaper ad, Dr. Kellogg announced that he was moving to the residence of R.H. Armstrong. There were a number of subsequent owners until a family whose ownership spans sixty years purchased the property in the 1930's.

Marie Dressler, veteran comedienne of stage and screen resided at 239 Ridout Street under the name Mary Koerber with Mr and Mrs N.E. Johnson. Her father was a music teacher and Mary - now Marie - was born in Cobourg, but the family subsequently moved to Port Hope, where they lived for some time at this location.

Historical Ad


A. O. KELLOGG, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, &c., &c.
WALTON STREET, ENGLISHTOWN.
Port Hope, 2nd June, 1559.

An ad for Dr. Kellogg prominently located in "Englishtown".



Architectural Detail

The front entrance is graced by a semi octagonal wood portico of generous dimensions.