MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 105 Dorset Street West

Known as: Bredon House

Architectural Style: Queen Anne Revival

Date Built: Circa 1880 (modified 1900, 1970, 1986)

Date Designated: October 29, 1984 to By -Law No. 52/84, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: SMITH EST PLAN PT LOT 451; LOT 452



Architectural Description

This essentially late Victorian form has the appearance of cottage architecture related to the shingle style of the resort houses of the Eastern seaboard. Built around 1880, the Smith House, in the Queen Anne Revival is typical of the genre, often described as the Shingle Style and popular about the turn of the century. The house is a high storey and a half frame building facing north to Dorset Street and, because of the steep hillside property, on the south side is set over a full storey basement built of squared fieldstone.

The house has all the details beloved of the Late Victorian and Edwardian periods when "Queen Anne" was the rage. The highly ornamental and picturesque Dorset Street front is marked by a wide bay dominated by a gable overhanging the splayed sides and another smaller gable adjacent, both with paired windows. The entrance is insignificant from the approach, but a generous verandah wraps around the end of the house, to become an open deck across the south face, possibly also roofed originally. The rear elevation has a pair of two-storey bays giving spectacular views towards the lake. A large chimney stack stands roughly amidships; to the west is a lower wing, a high single storey to Dorset Street and with a basement on the south side.

The house is remarkable also for its siting with the approach from Dorset Street above to a level forecourt and the treed slope towards the rear. The building exhibits a great amount of characteristic period detail in patterned shingling combined with narrow clapboard and gable lozenges, but it is the playful silhouette and picturesque outline which form the hallmark of the Queen Anne Revival or Shingle Style.

Historical Abstract

This Shake or Stick style house is unusual for Port Hope. Much of it is covered cedar shake, with patterned shingle in the gables. The facade is divided by long strips of wood to give the house a timbered appearance, and was to be balanced by a two-storey structure over the present kitchen begun in 1900. The verandahs were altered circa 1970 and the basement in 1986 and 1992. The house has a commanding presence, when seen from the bottom of the hill and takes advantage of its site and spectacular view. A line of sight was maintained from the house to the harbour, as this was once the residence of the Harbour Master. Other noted residents of this house have been Port Hope business owners Kimmel, the shoe manufacturer, and Trot, the photographer.

