MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 15 Julia Street

Known as: Cassie Cottage

Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage - Regency

Date Built: Circa 1852

Date Designated: April 7, 1982 to By-Law No. 16/82, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: RIDOUT PLAN 1 PT LOT 1 PT LOT 2



Architectural Description

Built in approximately 1852 by the Reverend John Cassie, it is a good example of a Regency Cottage. The brick house has one and one half storeys, a centre door, and two large first floor windows on either side of the front door, and a low hip roof with two front dormers.

Historical Abstract

Reverend John Cassie (1819-1861) was the Minister of the First Presbyterian Church from 1835 until his death in 1861. Reverend Cassie, a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, was a popular minister who made a significant contribution to the local Presbyterian congregation during the mid-nineteenth century.

The first Presbyterian Church in Port Hope was completed in 1831. The building was a modest frame structure constructed by builders William Brogdin and William Lee located on Baldwin Street. The Presbyterian Church had purchased a parcel of land on Baldwin Street from Dr. William Warren Baldwin prior to the church construction.

The Baldwin Plan is comprised of Town Plot Lot 91, nine and a half acres which was purchased by Dr. William Warren Baldwin in 1813. Dr. Baldwin was a prominent citizen of Upper Canada residing in Toronto and practising medicine as well as law. In addition to having dual professions, Dr. Baldwin was active in the political affairs of York and acquired large land holdings including this parcel in Port Hope. The naming of Baldwin Street commemorates the early landowner.

When the church was first constructed it stood in a pathless wood that was separated from the main road by a deep gully. It had to be approached from the west until a bridge was built across the ravine and then later filled in to form Church Street. As the congregation grew, the need for a larger church became apparent. Reverend Cassie oversaw the construction of a new church in 1854. A brick church that was capable of accommodating a congregation of one thousand replaced the frame church.

Not far from the church, on Julia Street, Reverend Cassie had his own home constructed circa 1852 on a lot purchased from another prominent Toronto landowner, Thomas Gibbs Ridout. The Ridout Subdivision was purchased by Ridout in 1832 and subdivided in 1847. Archival photos from the turn of the century indicate alterations have been made to the house. The glazing pattern of the dormers has been altered and some chimneys have been removed.



Architectural Detail

The brick house has one and one half storeys, a centre door, and two large first floor windows on either side of the front door, and a low hip roof with two front dormers.