MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 83 Brown Street

Known as: Charles Chislett House

Architectural Style: Victorian

Date Built: Circa 1874 (original Circa mid 1850's)

Date Designated: October 23, 1989 to By-Law No. 91/89, SCHEDULE B-15

Lot Description: PLAN 18 LOT 12



Architectural Description

Although this house looks late Victorian, the main floor is said to be older. Originally it was an Ontario cottage and the second storey was added in 1874 (the date is commemorated in the front pediment). The composite presents a basic two-storey hipped roof form. Projecting from the front is a two-storey bay, incorporating a main-floor vestibule with bedroom above, topped by a triangular pediment. The first floor is brick and the upper storey is frame. Fenestration is regular. Trim is plain save for the commodious verandah, which wraps around the facade and south elevation.

Two tall chimneys remain, one on the north elevation, the other on the rear elevation. Certain elements are more recent, and should not be considered a part of this designation: the two-car garage and the aluminium siding on the second floor need not be preserved. Original glazing patterns, perhaps two over two or one over one should likewise be considered. This Victorian home contributes to the variety of architectural styles that helps make Brown Street such an eclectic collection of 19th-century styles.

Historical Abstract

The house is situated on Lot 12 on the east side of Brown Street comprised of Park Lots 74 and 75 of the original Town Plots, part of the original land that was granted to Elias Smith and Jonathan Walton in 1797. Early settler John Brown acquired the land on which Brown Street is located, hence the name Brown. He donated some land for the street so that those attending the Methodist Church could have easier access. The subdivision of lots on Brown Street was registered in 1854, on Plan 18.

John P. McDermot and James B. Walsh, local businessmen who had their distillery located by the pond in the ravine behind Bedford Street, acquired the land that this house is situated on in 1854. In addition to their distillery, they were insurance agents selling Lafayette Marine Insurance, and they also had a wholesale grocery on Walton Street. During this period, McDermott and Walsh had acquired land on Bedford Street and erected two Ontario cottages at 24 Bedford and 28 Bedford Street that were used to house distillery workers. This house was initially constructed as an Ontario Cottage circa 1855 although it is not known if it was used for the same purpose or who was in residency. The second storey was added possibly in 1874 as the plaque on the front pediment commemorates, at which time the house was still owned by McDermot & Walsh. The view of the house represented on the Bird’s Eye View of Port Hope of 1874 indicates a one-storey cottage.

It was not until 1888 that the house was sold to Charles Chislett, a millwright born in Somerset, England in 1824 who emigrated to Canada with his bride, Emma in 1851. During the 1850's, Charles Chislett acquired several lots on Seymour Street (lots 20 to 23) but as of 1874, when the Bird's Eye View of Port Hope was reproduced, no dwellings appeared on these lots. By 1881, there were two deeds registered for lots 20 to 23 Seymour. After the death of Emma Marsh Chislett in 1915, the property was transferred to William Robert Chislett. Mr. Chislett was a contractor who in 1906, along with Thomas Garnett constructed St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Walton Street (131 Walton Street).



Architectural Detail

This house was initially constructed as an Ontario Cottage circa 1855. The second storey and wrap around porch were added later in the century.