MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 27 John Street

Known as: The Cochrane House

Architectural Style: Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1848

Date Designated: April 12, 1986 to By -Law No. 28/86, SCHEDULE B-5

Lot Description: TOWN PLOT 55 STEWART PLAN



Architectural Description

This two and a half storey frame dwelling is an early example of the Greek Revival. It is difficult to date the house without an architectural archeological study, but from its basic style, an estimation would be circa 1840.

It is a square house with a side-hall plan and gable roof. There is evidence of bed moulding over the wide frieze. On the gable ends are wide returned eaves. The main facade has three bays and the main entrance to the house is located on the north side of the facade.

In keeping with the overall impression of the house, the entrance is simple, yet gracefully done. The wide, closed transom, with its plain entablature, helps to frame the entrance. On either side of the door are plain, wooden pilasters. The entrance is reached by a wide flight of stairs. All of the windows of the house retain the original sashes of six panes over six panes. They all have moulded wooden surrounds and flush wooden sills.

On the south facade, the symmetry has been broken by the placement of a side window that allows light into the main stairway to illuminate the landing. On the east facade, there is again no symmetry. The door, not original, lies flush to a large six over six window, not original. The west facade seems to be original with its miniature version of a six pane over six window positioned in the gable peak.

Historical Abstract

The Cochrane House is named for James Cochrane, the original owner and proprietor of the Queen's Hotel (81 Walton Street). It is thought that he moved this building from a lot on Augusta Street south of John Street within close proximity of the railroad tracks to a site on the southwest corner of Augusta Street. On the Bird's Eye View of Port Hope, 1874, a building similar to this building is visible south of the intersection. The lot to which the building was moved to does not have any buildings represented.

James Cochrane (1815-1900) was born in County Down, Ireland in 1815. He came to Canada in 1841, and settled in Port Hope. In the 1860's, he was a saloon and hotel keeper. In 1871, he built the Queen's Hotel initially only two storeys in height. Five years later in 1876, the third storey was added.

As mentioned in the description, the two and a half storey frame dwelling is an early example of the Greek Revival style, contemporary with its former neighbour (94 John Street).

When the Port Hope Waterworks decided to build a new building in the downtown core, the southwest corner of Augusta and Pine was chosen. The "house that moves" was moved to its present site.



Architectural Detail

On the gable ends are wide returned eaves, a feature of the Classic Revival style.