MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 41 Mill Street North

Known as: Crawford Block

Architectural Style: Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1848

Date Designated: July 9, 1990 to By-Law No. 47/90, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: PLAN 13 PT LOTS 33,34 & 35



Architectural Description

Port Hope is famous for this style of building: three storey, brick, gable roof with parapet walls and end chimneys. Most buildings of the type are commercial but this building does not appear to have had a shop front. At ground level is the main recessed entrance, sheltered by glazed double door with transom above. The only window at street level is not a shop window but a conventional sash window with updated glazing pattern. There is a shop front cornice, a simple moulded design that stretches the width of the building.

At second and third storeys, there are two windows glazed in original six over six sash. The brick arches are remarkable for the angle of their splay, which creates a decorative pattern unusual in Port Hope. The upper cornice is distinguished by a decorative bracket and moulded boards. Parapets extend past the roof line although the parapet chimneys appear to have been sheared off. Other chimneys with corbelled caps remain elsewhere on the building on which to model a restoration. The current paint treatment is old but need not be considered a part of the designation.

This is the north third of a very important terrace. It is a prominent part of the Mill Street streetscape and in itself a shining example of Port Hope's mid-19th century architecture.

Historical Abstract

Henry Howard Meredith purchased the Crawford Block in July 1853. Robert Crawford, a saddler and tanner located on Ward Street, had built the block.

Early mention of this block in the newspaper dates the building to 1848. In April 1853, Crawford advertised sale of the “Three Brick Dwelling Houses” that were occupied by himself, and cabinetmaker W.F. Russell.

Henry Howard Meredith (1815-1892) was a prominent figure in Port Hope. He was a native of Ireland who came to Canada in 1829. In 1840, he married Margaret Brown, the third daughter of John Brown, a notable early settler. Brown erected the first brick building in Port Hope in 1823, his residence later known as the Royal Hotel on Mill Street South. Meredith, along with his father-in-law, John Brown, and brother-in-law, James Madison Andrews, ran the Port Hope Harbour and Wharf Company until 1851 when the Board of Harbour Commissioners was established. Meredith was secretary for the Company from 1829 to 1851.

The same year he built an elegant house on a four-acre estate near his extensive real estate holdings on Walton Street (Hill and Dale, 41 Pine Street South). His real estate holdings on Walton Street included 53-57, 59, 63 and 65 Walton Street.

In 1853, Henry Howard Meredith acquired this block of townhouses. In a rental advertisement of 1860 he described the townhouses as “three comfortable three storey Brick Dwelling houses on Mill Street North of the Post Office. These houses are particularly well adapted for persons requiring residences in the business part of Town, or for persons wanting a dwelling house with offices adjoining”.

Historical Newspaper Ads

Dwelling Houses to Let.

THE subscriber has purchased the Three-story Brick Buildings known as the Crawford Block, which he purposes having properly fitted up for Dwellings. These Dwellings are particularly well adapted for persons in business, being so convenient to the business part of the town. Possession can be given on or before the 1st of Sept. next.

For terms, &c. apply to H. H. MEREDITH.

July 29th, 1853.

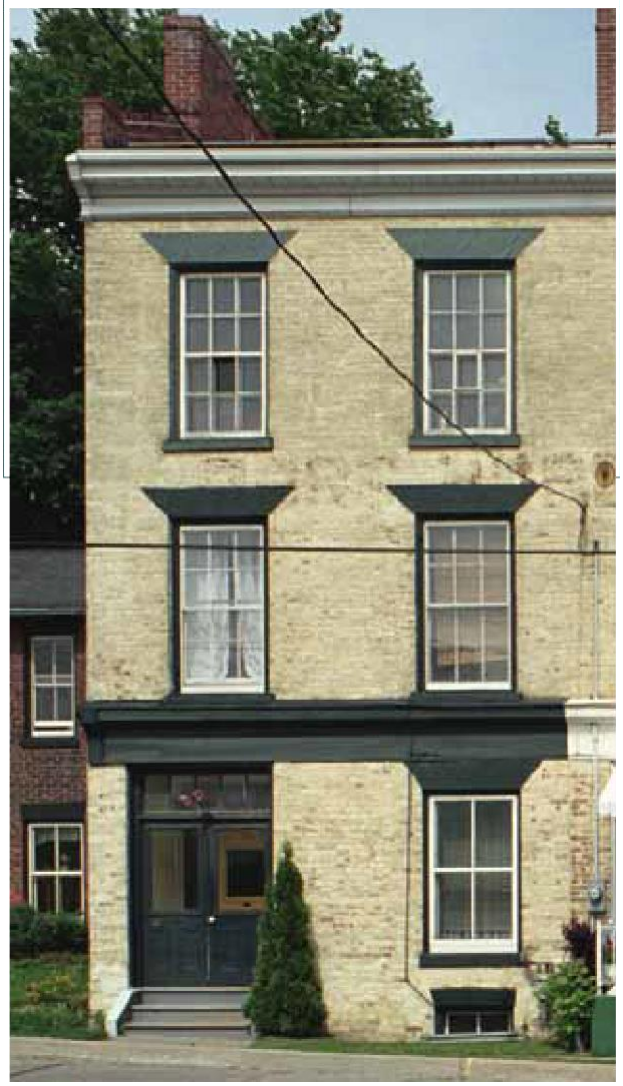
TO LET

THREE comfortable, three story BRICK DWELLING HOUSES on Mill Street, North of the Post Office. These Houses are particularly well adapted for persons requiring residences in the business part of the Town, or for persons wanting dwelling houses with offices adjoining.

☞RENT VERY MODERATE.☜

Apply to H. H. MEREDITH.

Port Hope, Nov. 13, 1860. v5n119-2in



Architectural Detail

When the building underwent restoration in the 1980's, nothing remained of the original shop fronts, shutters or doors, six-over-six windows or trim and cornice detail, all of which have been restored.