MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 28 Bedford Street

Known as: Crawley House

Architectural Style: Romanesque Revival

Date Built: Circa 1880’s (original Circa mid 1850's)

Date Designated: September 19, 1983 to By-Law No. 51/83, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: PLAN 18 PT LOT 34 LOT 33



Architectural Description

This large two and a half storey four bay brick house is built in the Romanesque Revival style popularized around 1880-1890 by American architect Henry Hobson Richardson. 28 Bedford displays many of the characteristic Richardsonian Romanesque Revival features such as large irregular plan, heavy masonry, steeply pitched roof, tall chimneys, recessed porch, oriel windows and door openings. The imposing entranceway is composed of a shingled pediment and round arches of corbelled and stepped brick with decorative panels on either side of corbelled brick. In this latter regard, 28 Bedford is remarkably similar to the 1885 Trow House in Stratford designed by architect Stamp.

Historical Abstract

In 1824, David Smart purchased six acres of Town Plot Lot 74 including the area where 28 Bedford Street is located to be used for his distillery business. The distillery was located by the pond in the ravine behind Bedford Street. Port Hope was widely known for the fine whiskey it produced in its distilleries of which there were quite a number.

David Smart (1797-1866) was a very prominent early resident of Port Hope. He was a native of Kincardinshire, Scotland and came to Port Hope in 1818. Smart became the Port Hope postmaster and held the position for over fifty years until his death in 1866. Since the postmaster salary was meagre, he also established a mercantile business in the 1840's selling hardware, glassware, groceries, wines and liquors. Durham Distillery produced "Superior Durham Whiskey". He also acted as an agent for Colonial Life and the Molson's Bank in the late 1850's. Smart was active in municipal affairs including involvement with the County Agricultural Society and St. Andrews Society. He was President of the Mechanics Institute and first President of the Port Hope Lindsay Railway. He was also a Colonel in the militia of 1837.

The property was later purchased by local businessmen McDermot and Walsh who retained ownership between 1852 and 1859. In addition to assuming the distillery, they were insurance agents selling Lafayette Marine Insurance, and they also had a wholesale grocery on Walton Street.

In 1861, Elias Crawley (1814-1898) purchased 28 Bedford Street. Rebecca and Elias Crawley, originally from Ireland, were local hotel keepers who had owned a well-known hotel in Canton in the 1850's. Elias Crawley had built a brick hotel in Canton south of the Mill Stream. The Hope Township Council meetings were held at the Canton Hotel during the Crawley's ownership from 1854 to 1861 up to 1878. The hotel was advertised for sale in 1860 as a brick hotel measuring thirty-two by forty-two including six acres of land. The sale of that property coincided with the purchase of 28 Bedford Street. During this period, the Crawley's were now the proprietors of an Inn at 84 Cavan Street later known as the Farmer's Inn or Farmer's Hotel

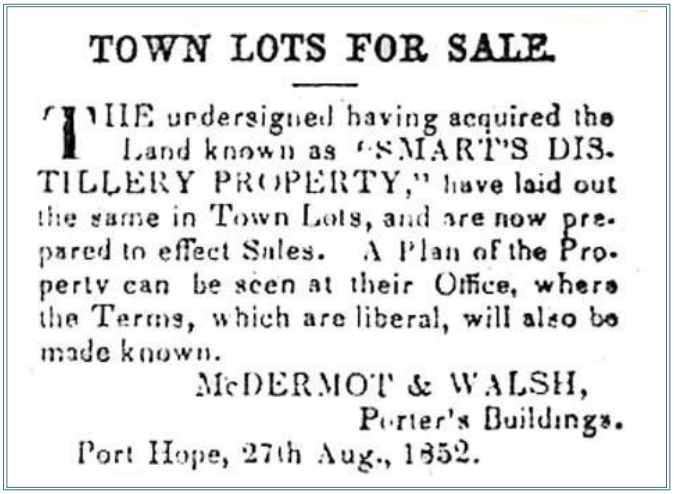
The original Ontario cottage was converted to a much larger house with the addition of a second floor and attic. The house was also altered with the addition of rounded arches over the window and recessed door opening, a steeply pitched roof with tall chimneys, and a distinctive oriel window transforming the once

modest cottage into a grand house in the Romanesque Revival style popular in the latter part of the 19th century. A later two-storey addition was added to the west side of the house in the late 1930's or early 1940's. In 1884, the Crawley's sold their house to W. E. Beamish (1853-1917) who had established the Beamish Ice Company in Port Hope. With the increased use of iceboxes in the latter part of the 19th century, there was a large demand for ice. Ice was cut from ponds and rivers during the winter, stored in icehouses during the warmer months and delivered to homeowners for their iceboxes.

Archival Photo



Historical Newspaper Ad



TOWN LOTS FOR SALE.

THE undersigned having acquired the Land known as "SMART'S DISTILLERY PROPERTY," have laid out the same in Town Lots, and are now prepared to effect Sales. A Plan of the Property can be seen at their Office, where the Terms, which are liberal, will also be made known.

McDERMOT & WALSH,
Porter's Buildings.

Port Hope, 27th Aug., 1852.

An ad that appeared in the local paper in 1852 advertising the sale of lots in the Bedford Street area



Architectural Detail

The original Ontario cottage was transformed into a grand house in the Romanesque Revival style popular in the latter part of the 19th century.