MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION



Address: 3632 Ganaraska Road

Known as: Dorothy's House
Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage - Vernacular
Date Built: Circa 1869
Date Designated: September 15, 1992 to By-Law No. 3381, SCHEDULE B
Lot Description: CON 8 PART LOT 17 HOPE TOWNSHIP

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior: The house is a one and a half storey (wood) post and beam construction with tongue and groove shiplap siding. Windows are four over four on the front and six over six on the side. The verandah is a design with chamfered posts and fretwork corners. The front dormer window has four over four windows. This is a house with very simple trim and woodwork and the front door case has sidelights.

Interior: The interior consists of a centre hall with back kitchen with walls made of lath and plaster with wainscoting.

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

Dorothy Wilson and her sister Pearl donated Dorothy's House to the East Durham Historical Society in 1980. The house was to be used as a Museum that would not only provide a view of a preserved pioneer home, but would also be used as a permanent display location for many of the artifacts owned by the Historical Society.

The Museum was officially opened in 1981 as an example of a working man's cottage of the 1860's with period furnishings and household goods of that era. Over the past twenty years some restoration work has been done on the home, and a barn was assembled from older material donated by Hope Township farmers. Many examples of pioneer tools and implements are on display in the barn.

Taylor Wilson, a local carpenter, was the first occupant of the house and responsible for its construction. While working on other larger residences in the township, he often brought home planks that were considered too knotty and incorporated them into his house.
I n 1874, Taylor Wilson sold the house to Ralph Noble who resided there until 1892. The house was sold again and a house from another property was added to the rear of the original house to serve as a summer kitchen. The Wilson sisters bought the house in 1935, a purchase that included the furniture of previous owners, some of which was made by local craftsmen, for only an additional one hundred dollars!

The East Durham Historical Society operates the museum that includes a garden and nature trail leading to the Ganaraska Conservation Park in Ward 2. The house is located in Garden Hill in Hope Township, an early farming community in which settlers cleared the land in the 1830's. Located by the Ganaraska River, the area also saw the development of grain, saw and woollen mills.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL

This is a house with very simple trim and woodwork and the front door case has sidelights. Vernacular in architectural expression, it makes use of local forms and materials, and incorporates familiar forms.