MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 162 Walton Street

Known as: George Hooker House

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District - Neo-Classic

Date Built: Circa 1888

Date Designated: October 6, 1987 to By-Law No. 44/97

Lot Description: PT 69



Architectural Description

Built originally as a two-storey shop and dwelling, this square house is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond and has a medium-pitched hipped roof with a flat deck and plain-boxed cornice. A single chimney rises from each of the west and east slopes of the roof. On the east wall, where the main door is located, there are three bays on both storeys. The windows have segmental heads with radiating brick arches, painted lugsills, and well-fitting shutters.

A porch with five supporting columns is located off-centre on the east wall. The south facade, on Walton Street, shows evidence of the original large shop window, which has been bricked-in. The two replacement windows have semi- elliptical heads and heavy transom bars characteristic of the late Victorian or Edwardian style of the turn of the century. It is likely that there was ornamental glazing above the transom bars.

Historical Abstract

During the 1820's John Brown, one of Port Hope's earliest settlers, owned a large section of this part of Walton Street, and in 1849, it became the property of his sons-in-law, James Madison Andrews and Henry Howard Meredith, who proceeded to sell off portions of it. This corner lot on Pine and Walton Streets became the property of James McCarthy who left it to his wife, Margaret, in 1865. Five years later Mrs. McCarthy sold the property to Cornelius Quinlan. In 1883, the lot known as McCarthy's Corner was left in Quinlan's will to his daughter, Mary Ann Janes. She and her husband, Simeon, sold the property in 1887 to Jane Gross and Mary Rope.

The next year George Hooker bought the lot. An article in the Port Hope Weekly Guide of Friday, October 5th, 1888 reads:

"Progressing: The new brick building in course of erection for Mr. Geo. Hooker, on the corner of Pine and Walton Streets, is progressing finely. Mr. Richard Trick is doing the brick and stone work, and Mr. S. Coombe the woodwork. It will be a two-storey shop and dwelling, with plate-glass front, and is expected to be ready for occupation before the Christmas holidays."

In addition to their own houses, (254 Ridout Street, Trick House) and (17 Victoria Street, Coombe Cottage) two of Port hope's talented tradesmen, Richard Trick and Samuel Coombe were responsible for the house construction.

George Hooker (1829-1890) was born in Aldington City, Kent England and came to Canada in 1853. He stayed for six years then returned to England, married his wife, and returned to Canada living briefly in Hamilton until he returned to Port Hope in 1875. He established a bakery and confectionery store on Walton Street. In Phyllis Smith's "Memoirs", Miss Smith recalls going to the Miss Hookers' shop for sweets as a child, a short walk from her family home Pinehurst at 44 Pine Street North.

After the death of George Hooker, his wife and daughter, Sarah and Eva Hooker, sold the house to George Ellis in 1895. Over the next six decades, it was the long time residence of the families Hull, Couchman and Smith each residing in the house for approximately twenty years. In 1957, the house and lot became the property of William Howard Jordan, noted educator after whom a Port Hope public school is named.



Architectural Detail

The house forms the corner piece of the Walton Street Heritage District marking the north-east angle of the Pine Street North intersection. The entrance front is turned facing east down Walton Street. The south facade which faces Walton Street shows evidence of a large shop front window which was bricked in and replaced with two windows with semi-elliptical heads characteristic of the late Victorian or Edwardian period circa 1900.