MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 24 Ward Street

Known as: Henderson House

Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage - Neo-Classic

Date Built: Circa 1837

Date Designated: March 19, 1984 to By-Law No. 26/84, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT LOT 17



Architectural Description

A medium-pitch gable roof with a centre dormer caps this one-and-a-half storey house. The frame dwelling is clad in clapboard and is finished with end boards and an exterior baseboard. Moulded capitals decorate the junction of the frieze and the end boards. A single interior chimney can be seen set in quite far on the east gable. The front dormer is trimmed by a thin moulded corner, and a pointed finial with a drop. The gable here is pedimented. The pediment meets flush with the projecting sides of the corners, which appear as an extension of the roof line. Set into the resulting recess is a paired casement window with segmental heads. The base of the window is even with the wooden frieze under the main facade eaves. A detailed bed moulding can be seen underneath.

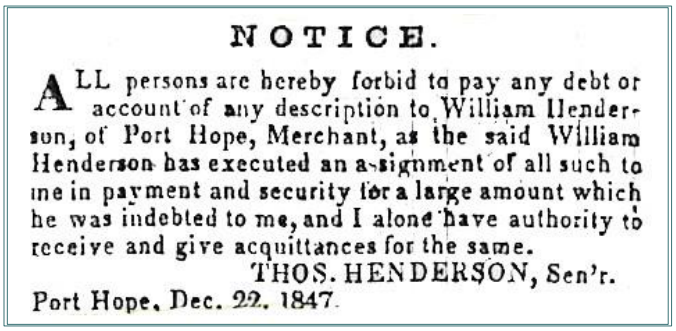
All of the main window openings are flat. The front windows are sashed with six panes above six in a plain surround. The upper side openings are smaller, two-over-two windows. Some of these windows have been replaced by wide, low openings with projecting surrounds and diamond tracery. On the main facade, under an open portico, sits the main entrance in a detailed surround. The trim is fluted and decorated with medallioned corner blocks. Above the door is an arched, light transom with curved muntins. A moulded keystone crowns the fine architrave above. The door is flanked by sidelights and side panels. The portico (REMOVED) is topped by a shallow, bell-cast, hipped roof. This is held by plain posts with crisscross treillage set between them. The railing is plain with a boxed "x" pattern fill. These details are identical to the original front verandah, which appears in an old photograph from the Tom Long Collection, running across the full front of the house (RESTORED).

Historical Abstract

The original town plot lot or the lots that comprised the central portion of town were part of the original grant received by Jonathan Walton and Elias Smith. The land was divided between Smith and Walton and surveyed into 91 plots of various shapes. As settlement progressed, the plots were divided into town lots. The names given to the Streets in this area are of local origin. Ward Street was named after Thomas Ward, the first lawyer in the district. His home was near the site of the present Trinity College, often referred to as Ward's Hill.

From 1830 to 1837, Abraham Henderson owned this property but it is not known if he built a house on it. In 1837, he sold it to his son, William, who immediately mortgaged the land. It is possible the house was built that year.

Historical Directory Ad



NOTICE.

ALL persons are hereby forbid to pay any debt or account of any description to William Henderson, of Port Hope, Merchant, as the said William Henderson has executed an assignment of all such to me in payment and security for a large amount which he was indebted to me, and I alone have authority to receive and give acquittances for the same.

THOS. HENDERSON, Sen'r.

Port Hope, Dec. 22, 1847.

It was not uncommon to see announcements such as the above notice in the local paper when family members had financial disputes.

William Henderson, along with his brother, Thomas, were prominent in village life. William was a township official between 1835-50. The Henderson's "rented the privilege of running the harbour" and were involved in shipping.

Thomas bought the house in 1848. He is credited with naming the hilly eastern portion of Port Hope and the area around the first church "Protestant Hill".



Architectural Detail

On the main facade, under an open portico, sits the main entrance in a detailed surround. The trim is fluted and decorated with medallioned corner blocks. Above the door is an arched, light transom with curved muntins. A moulded keystone crowns the fine architrave above.