MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 44 Bloomsgrove Avenue

Known as: Henry Shepherd House

Architectural Style: Italianate

Date Built: Circa 1875

Date Designated: April 2, 1991 to By-Law No. 30/91, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: PLAN 6 PT LOT 30 LOT 31 TO 32



Architectural Description

This is a two storey brick residence in running bond with a hipped roof, quite conventional for its time, but not without its share of architectural prowess. It adopts a three-bay façade. The side hall plan places the front door at the left. Neither the door nor the door case appear to be original and should not be considered part of this designation. Windows are regularly spaced under flat arches and glazed with two over two sash. Louvred shutters add to the facade composition. Of special note is the verandah with its slender, chamfered posts (note collar trim) and restrained use of gingerbread. Railing with plain squared balusters is a handsome detail. The same pattern appears on a small stoop verandah at the rear. (Iron rail and concrete steps are recent, and perhaps could be replaced someday). The cornice is plain, save for brackets. Metal ornaments on the crest of the roof are of interest. The house has lost its chimneys. Existing furnace flue is another item that might be removed in the future. To the rear, is a brick kitchen wing, 2-storeys high on one side, and a single storey high on the other. This Victorian brick house complements the streetscape and is also worthy of designation as a representative of domestic Victorian architecture.

Historical Abstract

In a series of transactions, the land on which this house stands and nine acres in total came into the ownership of Peter Robertson and John Mulligan in 1870. Part of Park Lot 35 lying east of Ontario Street was registered for Mulligan and Robertson as Plan 6 in March 1871. Mulligan was a Port Hope merchant who owned the "Golden Anvil" Hardware store on Walton Street from 1858 to 1878, and resided at 108 Dorset Street West (now known as Muidar). Peter James Robertson built the Robertson Blocks, (35 Walton and 41-51 Walton Street) , the block in which John Mulligan had his hardware store. During the 1870's, 80's and 90's, Robertson and Mulligan sold lots in this nine-acre parcel.

In 1871, Henry Shepherd purchased lots 29, 30, 31, 50 and 51. Henry Shepherd was a merchant grocer who was in partnership with Thompson Ballagh, a baker operating under the business name of Ballagh and Shepherd. Ballagh and Shepherd were located on Walton (118-120 Walton Street) . On the Bird's Eye View of Port Hope 1874, a house with a similar shape is drawn on the map. In a business directory of 1880, H. Shepherd is a grocer, no longer in partnership with Ballagh, owning one half an acre on Bloomsgrove. In the 1881 census, Alexander Ballagh resides with Henry Shepherd.

Henry Shepherd died in 1886 and left his properties to William Shepherd. William Shepherd was listed in a business directory of 1871 as a divisional court clerk residing on Sullivan Street. He began selling lots in 1887 starting with lot 50 (now on Ellen Street) which he sold to Matthew P. Clemes of the Clemes family that resided at the Clemes Duplex (57-59 King Street) . He sold lot 51 to Arthur Shepherd. In 1890, Florence Chalk purchased the neighbouring property (48 Bloomsgrove Avenue)

Historical Ad



Thompson Ballagh and Henry Shepherd had their grocery and bakery store located in the building later known as the "Guide Office" (118-120 Walton Street).