MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 20 Ward Street

Known as: Hooey Cottage

Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage – Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1855

Date Designated: February 27, 1989 to By-Law No. 21/89, SCHEDULE B-6

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT LOT 17



Architectural Description

A superb example of the Ontario cottage style, this single-storey hip-roofed home bears a three bay symmetrical facade arranged around a centrally placed entrance. It is not a pretentious dwelling, rather its character is derived more from its diminutive size and its wealth of original detail.

Focus of the composition is the door case with its curious 'eared' corner moulded trim, which is echoed on both facade windows. Sidelights, divided into regular half-panes, are unusually long confining the transom to rather limited proportions. The original six-panel front door is still in place. Above the front door is a gable of modest pitch, topped by a spike finial and drop. A semi-circular fanlight accents the gable and is glazed in radiating panes. The windows are long and graceful and contain their original six over six sash. The chimney is a replacement of the original.

The tail (kitchen wing) to the rear is thought to predate the front, with its early style pilastered door case and smaller-paned windows. The historical finish for both the front and rear is stucco. The porch addition on the rear is a good example of sympathetic improvement and ought to be considered in this designation.

Historical Abstract

William Hooey was born in Ireland in 1823, and became a resident of Port Hope by 1842. He established himself as a merchant and operated a grocery store. An early reference to his business appears in an 1850 edition of the Watchman under a notice of businesses that had been victims of a fire on John Street. By 1851, he had re-established his business on Walton Street in the first R.C. Smith Block (48-60 Walton Street) and was listed in a local business directory as a grocer, baker and confectioner with "every article in the above line of business constantly on hand and for sale, of the best quality, and upon moderate terms."

Hooey Cottage was built circa 1855, and it was in this year that Mr. Hooey became a widower. He was also a town councilor and remained a merchant on Walton Street for many years still advertising in business directories in 1865. The cottage property remained in his name until 1876.

Hooey Cottage, while barely visible from Ward Street, is situated at the extreme north end of the lot creating a huge frontage on Ward Street. A red brick house that was built on the frontage by a later owner of the property now blocks the view of the cottage.

The cottage appears to have been built in two stages with the wing to the rear predating the front. The rear portion consisted of three rooms, a large main room that was probably a kitchen, and two smaller rooms that were probably used as bedrooms.



Architectural Detail

The door case and windows both have an 'eared' corner moulded trim, which are details typical of the Classical Revival period circa 1830-1860.