MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 94 John Street

Known as: J.D. Smith House

Architectural Style: Neo-Classic

Date Built: Circa 1835 (RESTORED)

Date Designated: October 23, 1989 to By-Law No. 91/89, 46/91, SCHEDULE B-14, Amended June 10, 1991

Lot Description: TOWN PLOT PT LOTS 47 & 48



Architectural Description

This is perhaps the oldest of a group of houses that line the south end of John Street, between Augusta and Dorset. Its former dilapidated condition obscured noteworthy features, such as the symmetrical arrangement of windows around the central front door (note pilastered doorcase and transom, the latter glazed although this appears not to be the original arrangement).

The house adopts the typical early pattern - a two-storey gable roof with brick end chimneys. A one storey hipped roof appendage stands to the side, and if not original is fairly early. Windows are placed regularly. The upper storey windows are noticeably smaller although the original sash are largely missing. Many of the original features were hidden behind a commodious verandah (in decayed condition) thought to be a later addition. It has been removed. The house is built in frame (thought to be timber frame) sheathed in clapboard. Narrow eaves are of note.

The interior contains much original detail such as door and window frames, trim, baseboards and plaster. Some walls have been moved or added, and the original staircase is missing, but enough of the early composition remains to make the interior worthy of designation.

A surprisingly old house typical of the early form, it contributes to streetscape appeal, but most importantly stands as a reminder of the pre-Victorian period.

Historical Abstract

This is one of the town's oldest existing buildings having been built circa 1835, and can be identified on the 1837 Bartlett view. It had its historic beginnings as a local tavern, important in its location on the way to the harbour. The single storey hip roofed addition on the north façade provided a separate entrance perhaps to the taproom. Representative of the period prior to the building boom of the 1850's, the building is executed in a Neo-classic style with some Loyalist and Greek Revival influences.

Prior to 1844, John David Smith owned the property on which this building is located and this may account for the American architectural influence.

Prior to restoration, the house had been divided into four apartments. The roof, trim and original sashing has been restored as well as some of the interior details. Both the front doors are original. The main door has an elegant doorcase with fluted pilasters with fully moulded caps, above which is a now restored Chinoiserie transom.

The redesigned staircase was executed in walnut and white pine and is similar to those found in two other John Street establishments, Port Hope's Beamish & Midland Houses. The only fireplace in the house would appear to have been in the dining room, formerly the kitchen, the rest of the house having been heated by wood stoves pipes and heat holes.



Architectural Detail

The house had its historic beginnings as a local tavern, important in its location on the way to the harbour.