MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 89 Brown Street

Known as: John Morris Cottage

Architectural Style: Victorian

Date Built: Circa 1861

Date Designated: February 27, 1989 to By-Law No. 21/89, SCHEDULE B-7

Lot Description: PT LOTS 10 & 11



Architectural Description

This is a simple storey-and-a-half clapboard house with its gable end forming the facade. To the rear is a diminutive kitchen tail, also topped by a gable roof. The whole is a modest composition, but not without its charms, standing on a corner lot as a vital and highly visible part of a well-preserved streetscape.

Original six over six sash survive as part of the original composition, and although the wide arched show window is later (perhaps c. 1905), it does not detract from the facade. Likewise, the glazed vestibule about the front door is a complementary feature. The chimney is in what appears to be the original position, but lacks its original cap treatment. This plain gable-roofed house exemplifies a more restrained approach to Victorian architecture.

Historical Abstract

On the Bird’s Eye View of Port Hope of 1874, a small gabled storey and a half house is drawn on lot 11 of Town Plot Lot seventy-four. This modest worker's cottage exhibits a more restrained approach to Victorian architecture. It has a simple gabled roof with symmetrically placed six-over-six windows. The original doorcase has narrow glazed sidelights and transom. The vestibule porch was added at a later date, but is designed in a manner similar to the removable vestibules prevalent at this time. The living room window was also replaced in the early 1900's with an Edwardian arched window with a stained glass transom.

The large addition to the east was built later, replacing the original summer kitchen, storage area and woodshed, which all had different floor levels. The original woodwork detailing is intact and all the paint on the woodwork has been removed, revealing the red pine used in the construction.

The earliest recorded land transaction for part lot 10 and 11 of town plot lot seventy-four suggests that John Morris, a local butcher, was the original owner of the house. In business directories of the period, he provides Cavan Street as his address, possibly for his business. In 1873, John Morris sold the property to Luke Martin and Thomas Earl. Luke Martin provides his occupation as a farmer in a later business directory, and Thomas Earl was a local saddler who also owned 143 Walton Street as of 1873. By 1875, the property transferred to Luke Martin and his wife Margaret, although the address provided by Luke Martin in a business directory of 1880 suggests he resided at Elgin and Hope Street.



Architectural Detail

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