MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 56 Queen Street

Known as: The Memorial Bandshell

Architectural Style: Vernacular

Date Built: Circa 1946 (Restored)

Date Designated: June 8, 1992 to By -Law No. 41/92, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: LOT 332 & 333, SMITH ESTATE PLAN



Architectural Description

Port Hope's Memorial Bandshell was constructed in 1946 with plans purchased from the Canadian Bandmaster's Association. Stated in a period newspaper report, the plans provided "the most up-to-date scientific principals of sound technology". While the plans provided the basic design only, it is believed that the cornice and keystone were of local design making the Port Hope Memorial Bandshell unique.

Architecturally, the Memorial Bandshell incorporates many classical features including the keystone and ornate heavy cornice. It is constructed of stucco of which there are very few examples in Port Hope dating from this period.

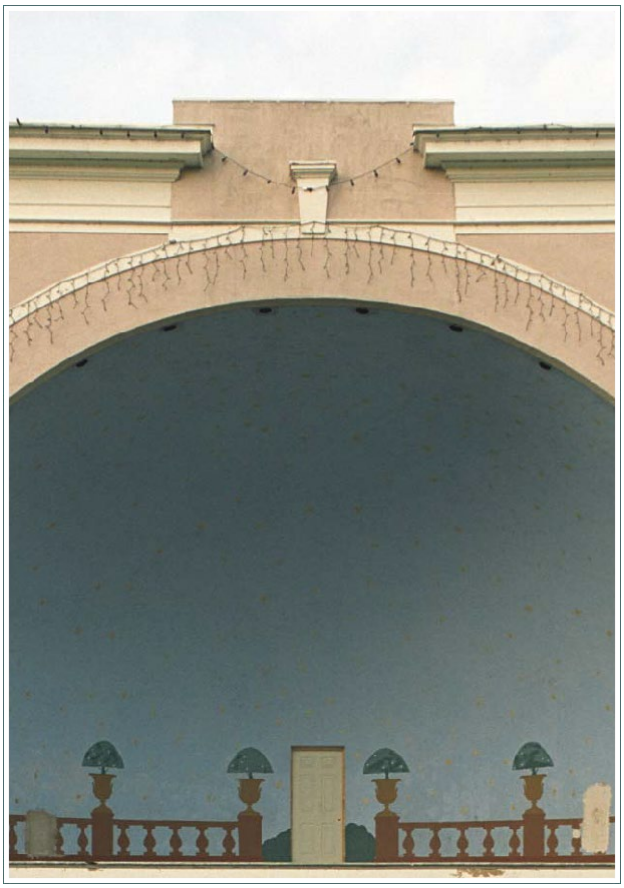
Historical Abstract

Shortly after WWII, the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Hope branch, decided to build a Bandshell to honour the members of all armed forces who fought in all wars since Canada's Confederation in 1867. Port Hope Bandmaster Fred Brooks spearheaded the fundraising campaign. It was completed in 1946, and dedication ceremonies occurred on July 1, 1946 with Lieutenant-Col. John Foote, V.C. officiating.

The Bandshell was originally located behind (west of) the Town Hall building, and was restored and moved to its present location under the auspices of the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in 1992. Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn unveiled a commemorative plaque after restoration of the Bandshell was completed.

The building consists of a large arched opening with a concave shaped stage behind finished with stucco. The stage is painted with an outdoor scene of stars and exterior planting. The shape of the shell is designed to amplify sound and neighbours will attest to its effectiveness.

The Port Hope Bandshell is the Town's outdoor performance venue for not only musical performances but also serves as a location for a variety of social events including Remembrance Day services.



Architectural Detail

This is a house with very simple trim and woodwork and the front door case has sidelights. Vernacular in architectural expression, it makes use of local forms and materials, and incorporates familiar forms.