MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 36 South Street

Known as: Methodist Manse

Architectural Style: Victorian

Date Built: Circa 1875

Date Designated: July 20, 1987 to By-Law No. 49/87, SCHEDULE B-6

Lot Description: SMITH ESTATE PT LOTS 311 & 312



Architectural Description

This late Victorian red brick house exhibits the characteristics of this period. The asymmetrical plan with its protruding bay and wide columned porch creates a pleasing composition indicative of the romantic qualities of this period of architecture.

The house is topped by a steeply pitched roof supported with wood brackets and decorated with a delicate and elegant bargeboard trim.

Historical Abstract

The house was built by the Methodist Church for use as a manse. The Methodists built their first church in 1833 on the southwest corner of Brown and South Street. The contract for construction of the church was awarded to Robert Mitchell (8 King Street) and Phillip Fox (later builder of the Town Hall, 56 Queen Street). In 1874, a fire destroyed the building. The lot across the street from the first church was purchased from J. Shuter Smith in 1870, and a new church was erected on the northwest corner of Brown and South Street in 1874. The architectural design was awarded to Smith and Gemmell, Toronto based architects who were known for their extensive experience in designing churches. The construction contract was awarded to J. W. Wallace, and Peter Rice Randall was appointed superintendent overseeing construction.

The exact date of construction is not known or if Smith and Gemmell designed the church manse. The dwelling exhibits characteristics of the late Victorian period and could have been erected around the same time as the church itself. The Board of Trustees and Official Board upon the consecration of the church were: Board of Trustees; Thomas Wilcock, Charles Clemes, John S. Carveth and the Official Board was: John S. Carveth, Thomas Neelands, Samuel Lelean and Richard Trick. The Class Leaders were J.L. Russell and Charles Clemes and some of the local preachers were Charles Clemes and Thomas Whitfield.

The house remained the church manse when the Methodist congregations united to form the United Church of Canada in 1925. Since 1986, it has been privately owned.



Architectural Detail

The house displays many of the features of the late Victorian house with decorative bargeboard under the gable peak, bracketed eaves, a two-storey bay window, verandah and elegant entrance.