MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 150-152 Walton Street

Known as: Misson Duplex

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District - Neo-Classic

Date Built: Circa 1843 (RESTORED)

Date Designated: July 20, 1987 to By-Law No. 49/87, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: TOWN PLOT PT LOT 69



Architectural Description

This early building with a carriageway in the middle is rectangular in plan. It is the intermediate section of a row of architecturally non-related buildings, and joined to these on the gable ends. There are four bays on the first floor and five on the second, with flat wooden surrounds. The roof is moderately pitched with a plain-boxed cornice and plain frieze. The building is now divided into two dwellings with side entrances. The building is stuccoed but was originally of frame construction. The gently curved arch over the carriageway is connected to the transoms over the two rather narrow doors. This building marks an interesting variation in the block of buildings in which it stands.

Historical Abstract

Richard Misson had a house on this property as early as 1843, according to references on early deeds to neighbouring lots. However, the earliest deed showing any Misson transaction on the property was on March 7th, 1854 when John Bates sold the lot to Richard Misson. As was often the case, Misson may have built on the site earlier and finished paying off a long-term loan to Bates several years later.

Richard Misson (1816-1891) was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1816 and emigrated to Canada in 1836. He established himself as a painter and later partnered with Richard Fogarty as Misson & Fogarty, painters and paperhangers. In 1845, he built the Customs House (12 Mill Street South). In 1853, he established a sash factory. By 1859, his eleven-year partnership with Fogarty had dissolved. By 1880, Richard Misson is listed in local directories as a gentleman residing on Mill Street perhaps at 12 Mill Street South.

In an article in the Port Hope Guide of 1904 listing property owners on Walton Street, Mary Misson is listed as owner of this property. Mary Brokensha Misson (1824-1907) was born in England and married to Richard Misson. Her daughter Annie was Mrs. Ben Oliver, who owned a menswear shop on Walton Street. They resided in one half of the house at one time.

The property remained in the Misson family for nearly a hundred years until 1957, when Mary Gertrude Doney, next of kin to Annie Oliver, formerly Annie Misson, sold the house and lot to Thomas Francis and Agnes Allen Roddy. Over the intervening years the double dwelling, has been sold many times.



Misson Duplex, circa 1932. photo from Eric Arthur Fonds, Archives of Ontario



Architectural Detail

Careful conservation work restored much of the original character of this early frame building of Neo-Classical vernacular with twelve-over-twelve sash, transomed entrances of fine chinoiserie design with panelled doors, and elliptically headed centre carriageway.