MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 82 Molson Street

Known as: Mitchell House

Architectural Style: Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1870

Date Designated: April 11, 1988 to By-Law No. 39/88, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: CON 2 PT LOT 4



Architectural Description

An excellent example of a dwelling type of the mid and later nineteenth century, a form very familiar to the Port Hope scene, namely the narrow three-bay, side hall two-storey hip roofed house of Late Neo-Classic or Classical Vernacular style. The house is somewhat of a hybrid showing the bracketed eaves and four-paned windows to the front which place it in the period of 1870 - 1890, and the six over six windows at the side and in the wing akin to an earlier period of 1850 - 1860. The eaves brackets are simpler than the fretted and laminated type often with acorn drops associated with the period 1875 - 85, but their profile is definitely later nineteenth century.

This house has some pretension to grandeur, not only in its outward appearance, but also in its interior detail, the round-arched wooden mantel and elaborate archway between parlours being notable. This and the surviving flat and well-filled plaster rosette to the hall as well as the substantial stair balustrade speak of the 1870's. A later "tin" ceiling to the entrance hall appears to be contemporary with the verandah to the house, probably circa 1900. Floor joists are circular sawn, of adequate size and relatively closely spaced with cross-bridging in the modern manner. This house has a brick exterior. It originally had four chimneys. The foundation is fieldstone.

Historical Abstract

In 1854, James McCutcheon sold to William Mitchell sixteen acres in concession 2, southerly part of lot 4, an area that is now the north side of Molson Street. Along with his brother Robert (8 King Street), William Mitchell (1799-1871) was a local carpenter builder who resided on King Street. By 1868 and 1871, he is listed in local business directories as "William & Eli, market gardeners, Molson Street". In 1871 at the age of 72, William Mitchell died leaving the sixteen acres on Molson Street to wife, Jane and son William T. Mitchell. In 1874, William Mitchell's wife Jane (1810-1874) died and the sixteen acres were transferred to son William T. Mitchell.

On the Port Hope Map of 1878 appearing in the Belden Atlas, the property near the Molson Mill House (46 Molson Street) is identified as land owned by W. M. Moulson (sic) and the land to the east of this property is identified as William T. Mitchell's. W. M. Molson also owned the northerly part of lot 4. In 1878, William T. and his brother Edwin M. registered an agreement in which they split the sixteen acres; Edwin received ten acres although it is not evident if this was the eastern or western portion of the southerly parcel of sixteen acres.

There were greenhouses located nearby this dwelling, which was built circa the 1870's based on architectural features. The only other house on the north side of Molson that dates from this period according to tax assessments is the house located at 72 Molson Street.

By 1878, William T. and Edwin A. are advertising their business as gardener and florist in the list of subscribers of the Belden Atlas. By 1880, they are advertising their greenhouse business called the Ontario Gardens, "the finest stock of plants in Canada, the hothouses are always open, all are invited". Cousins G.A. Mitchell and J.R. Mitchell advertised, "all orders for hanging flowers and baskets should be left at G.A. Mitchell Drugstore (65 Walton Street).

Nearby Mitchell Street, which extends from Molson to Ontario Street was named to commemorate the local landowners. The property remained in the Mitchell family into the 20th century.

Historical Directory Ad



ONTARIO GARDENS!

THE PUBLIC ARE RESPECTFULLY INVITED TO

CALL AT THE GARDENS,

AND INSPECT ONE OF

THE FINEST STOCK OF PLANTS IN CANADA.

The Hothouses are Always Open. All are Invited.

PRICES VERY LOW. CATALOGUES ON APPLICATION.

C. M. MITCHELL.



Architectural Detail

The eaves brackets are simpler than the fretted and laminated type often with acorn drops associated with the period 1875 - 85, but their profile is definitely later nineteenth century.