MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 285 Hope Street North

Known as: Molson Mill House

Architectural Style: Saltbox

Date Built: Circa 1851 (RESTORED)

Date Designated: July 20, 1987 to By -Law No. 49/87, SCHEDULE B-7

Lot Description: CON 2 PT LOT 4



Architectural Description

This one-storey frame saltbox is clad in wide clapboard and finished with end boards. The medium-pitched saltbox roof with returned eaves houses a plain-boxed cornice and a plain wooden frieze. Located within the saltbox slope of the roof are two interior chimneys. All the window openings are flat and have a plain wooden trim and a small shelf-moulding overhead.

The main facade houses French doors on either side of the central main door. The French doors are paned with four full panes beside four half panes contrasting with the solidity of the main door. This entrance has a square fluted pilastered architrave. Atop the plain pilaster capitals sits a sloped hood roof or shelf, again in keeping with the window entablatures. The gable facade windows are all six panes over six in a double hung sash. The first-storey bays are taller and narrower than those on the second storey. A French door identical to those on the main facade can be seen on the south facade of the building.

To the rear of the house, the saltbox roof line is full and consistent although the house addition is irregular causing an open umbrage within which the rear entrance sits. Windows in the addition are also six panes over six in double hung sashes but are found here on a smaller scale than those of other facades.

Historical Abstract

The Molson name is synonymous with brewing and distilleries in Canada being one of the oldest manufacturing enterprises dating back to the eighteenth century. Based in Montreal in Lower Canada, Thomas Molson wanted to expand into Upper Canada so he applied to York for a permit to build a brewery but was rejected due to local competition. In 1851, Port Hope was the next largest port in Upper Canada, so Thomas Molson purchased property about a mile from the business part of town near Cavan and Jocelyn Streets on the Ganaraska river. The purchase included a brewery, Crawford's distillery, a flour mill, a sawmill, a stave factory, a millpond and dam.

The daily management of the mills was assigned to Robert Orr who reported to Thomas Molson daily. Robert Orr was born in Ireland in 1819. The date of his arrival in Port Hope is not known however; by 1851 he had established himself as a dry goods merchant on Walton Street. This house, which is adjacent to Molson Mill (46 Molson Street), is thought to be the house in which he resided during the years he was manager of Molson's interests in Port Hope, as well as later in life. In an 1880 directory, he provides his address as Hope and Molson Street residing on one acre as a tenant.

While the exact date of construction of the house is not known, the property was owned by Horace Perry during the 1830's and 40's. Perry was a jeweller who had an established jewellery store on Walton Street. Perry may have built a house on the property that was later modified during the Molson ownership.



Architectural Detail

Located adjacent to the Mill House is the Molson Mill (46 Molson Street) and a log house that was moved to this location and restored.