MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 108 Brunton Street

Known as: Nathaniel Gillespie Cottage

Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage – Regency

Date Built: Circa 1854

Date Designated: October 29, 1984 to By-Law No. 52/84, SCHEDULE B-6

Lot Description: RIDOUT PLAN 1 LOT 4



Architectural Description

A mid-nineteenth century Ontario Cottage with a semi-circular window in the central gable. The house is a typical Ontario Cottage form of a single storey frame house with hipped roof. The end chimneys have been replaced by modern stacks attached to the outside walls.

This version of the Ontario Cottage is notable for its three bay front distinctively treated with a handsome door case with gable and half moon window above, and Venetian windows on either side. The entrance has an eared architrave of Greek Revival inspiration framing a boldly detailed door, now glazed above but with original moulded and fielded panels below repeated in the spandrels below the sidelight, now plain and without muntins, and the transom still with its wide diamond lozenge pattern.

The gable window has regrettably lost its divisions (RESTORED) , but was likely a fan design common to other small houses of similar date. The Venetian windows have a centre light with two vertically sliding sash of four panes over four, the narrow sidelights two over two. The building is particularly noteworthy for its exterior cladding, a wood flush boarding painted to imitate cut stone. This finish covers the entire main block and part of the rear extension, which include a gabled wing and part lean-to.

However, the sun porch now masking the front is a much more recent addition and may replace an earlier verandah, a feature to be expected on the south face.

Historical Abstract

Lot 4 of Plan 1, the Ridout Plan, was land acquired by Toronto banker Toronto banker, Thomas Gibbs Ridout in 1832. The Ridout Subdivision was Lot 8 in the First and Broken Front Concession of the Hope township survey. Subdivision of the Lot 8 began in 1847 and the sale of the lots commenced.

Nathaniel Gillespie's name appears on the Wall & Forrest Map of 1853, showing a small dwelling where this house is located and another dwelling on the east side of Julia Street, south of Bruton Street. Later business directories indicate he purchased one acre in total extending to Julia Street.

Nathaniel Gillespie (1821-1899) was originally from County Armagh Ireland. He and his wife Cecelia emigrated to Canada in 1847. He established himself as a painter, during the building boom of the 1850's and it is an occupation he would have his entire life. The house remained in the Gillespie family, transferring to son Robert Tobias in 1899 after the death of both Nathaniel and Cecelia, which occurred within two days of each other.



Architectural Detail

The gable window had lost its divisions but they have been restored. The enclosed sun porch is a much more recent addition and may replace an earlier verandah