MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 82 Victoria Street South

Known as: Penryn Billiard House

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1900

Date Designated: August 9, 1983 TO By-Law No. 2070, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: CON 1 PT LOT 9 CBF



Architectural Description

This red brick building of three floors was built for Henry H. King in 1900 by local carpenter, James Tape. Its design matches that of the "Big House" with excellent bargeboard on the gables with pinnacles and drops. The window headers and shutters are noteworthy features; as is the mantle piece, above which is a glass photograph of the natural bridge in Virginia. The photograph is set in the wall so that the natural light may shine through it, and the chimney flues divide and join again above the photograph.

Historical Abstract

After the death of A.T.H. Williams in 1885 (his wife Emily had died in 1882) the main house was sold to Henry H. King, an American lawyer from Pittsburgh who had extensive real estate and business holdings. He became aware of the Port Hope area as one of the many Americans who spent their summers in the area. He purchased Penryn Park as his summer residence.

The Billiard House was constructed for Henry H. King in 1900. The design of the Billiard House matched the design of the main house and was built by local carpenter, James Tape. The one and a half storey brick building has a high peaked roof and dormers that give it an unusual but charming form. Similar to the "Big House", it has ornate gable bargeboard trim and spires accentuating the gables.

The door to the Billiard House had a peephole that Mr. King could use to see who was calling at the main house. The maid who answered the door would ring a bell connected to the Billiard House, and if Mr. King answered the bell he was home, otherwise he was not available. The main floor of the building was used as a billiard room, while the upper floor housed the maid's quarters.



Architectural Detail

The bargeboard on the gables with pinnacles and drops and the window headers and shutters are noteworthy features of the Billiard House. Emphasis on verticality, multiple gables, decorative bargeboard and finials are typical details of the Gothic Revival style.