MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 98 Dorset Street West

Known as: Peter Rice Randall House

Architectural Style: Victorian

Date Built: Original Circa 1853 modified Circa 1890-1910

Date Designated: June 19, 1995 to By -Law No. 18/95, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOT 66



Architectural Description

The house is a well-maintained frame two-storey cottage built approximately 1890-1910. The plan is a simple side stair with two main rooms on the ground floor with a kitchen in a rear frame one-storey appendage. This simple house is adorned by a generous front porch with wood tapered columns. The columns, while simple, have an interesting wood detail replicating flutes. The windows on the ground floor main rooms are a cottage-style double-hung window with six panes over and a larger tower single pane window. The rear kitchen has six over six windows.

On the second floor are simple double hung windows with single pane glass. On the lower floor the wood storms are still in use and intact while the upper floor has aluminium storm windows. The siding is a six-inch clapboard siding with corner flat board trim and simple flat board trim at the windows with a drip cap moulding. There is an interesting detail at the gables with a drilled hole pattern venting. Fascias are a simple flat board. The chimneys (2) are brick with corbelled brick caps. The roof is presently asphalt shingles but may have originally been wood shingles.

The interior of the house is largely intact in its original. The stair is an elegant wood stair with carved wood newel and turned spindles. Wood trim in the house is simple with a wide simple baseboard. The fireplace is brick, but it could not be determined if it is original or added later, since it appears somewhat more modern. The house is a good example of frame cottages prevalent in Port Hope. Many of these cottages have since been altered, some irrevocably, while this one appears to be largely intact and is worthy of designation.

Historical Abstract

On the Wall and Forrest Map of 1853, this house is visible as a one-storey frame cottage. By 1874, the house appears on the Bird's Eye Map of Port Hope as a two-story house with gable end to the street. In 1853, Peter Rice Randall, a local builder purchased from James Grant less than an acre of land. The lot extended to the west of the location of the present day house.

P.R. Randall (1822 - 1906) was born in Ontario in 1822, and had established himself as a carpenter and builder during the prosperous 1850's in Port Hope. His father, John P. Randall was of Loyalist stock and appears in early assessments for Hamilton Township in 1805. In business directories of the period, Peter Randall lists his business as P. Randall and Brother. He had four brothers of whom Maitland and Addison were carpenters.

Randall lists his residence in business directories as being on Baseline (Dorset Street) from the 1850's onward. During this period, he is known to have constructed residences such as the Regency style house on Little Hope Street (10 Little Hope Street). It is not known if the property on Little Hope Street (sometime referred to as Sullivan Lane since it joins Sullivan Street and Ridout Street) was an investment or residence of family members. In 1867, Peter R. Randall sold the Little Hope Street property.

Among his later building achievements, he constructed the YMCA in 1874 (50 John Street). In 1874, he was the superintendent

overseeing the construction of the Methodist Church on South Street. He served as Mayor of Port Hope from 1879-1882. Along with William Craig, he was a fellow member of the Baptist congregation.

In 1876, the deed for 98 Dorset Street transferred to Mary Webster, the mother-in-law of P.R. Randall. In 1886, Randall sold a quarter of an acre of land to John Mulligan, local merchant and land owner, who constructed a neighbouring residence at 108 Dorset Street West now known as Muidar. Elizabeth Webster Randall died in 1894; P.R. Randall continued to live in the house until his death in 1906.



Architectural Detail

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