MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 90 Brown Street

Known as: Robert Deyell House

Architectural Style: Italianate

Date Built: Circa 1876

Date Designated: February 27, 1989 to By-Law No. 21/89, SCHEDULE B-5

Lot Description: PLAN 40 LOT D



Architectural Description

details of the Italianate are prominent in this large Victorian-era home, originally subscribing to the later neo-Classic. Other styles are also evident in the subtle detailing. It is now a two-storey brick house with a Tuscan tower. However its origins can be discerned by careful scrutiny of the principal facades facing Brown and Bedford which are finished in finely executed Flemish bond. That to Brown, facing east, was originally the principal front and patches can just be discerned to the north of the tower where entrance and window above were filled in, albeit very carefully to match the original brickwork. The south side under the porch has been rendered with stucco, but an entrance, complete with transom and sidelight has been set into the south and west corner of the original house. The west wings, facing Bedford, appear to be in two stages one across the back of the original house with a large two-storey bay in its southerly projection, the second a further two-storey extension. The older of the two still has a window of six panes over six. Additions to the house are obvious where bricks are laid in common bond. The foundation is now rendered with stucco.

The house, of irregular plan, has a medium-pitch hipped roof with projecting eaves having a flat soffit. The two end chimneys located in line with the walls relate to the original building, another occurring in the centre of the west addition.

The most obvious feature distinguishing the house is its two-and-one-half-storey Tuscan tower. Located on the east facade, facing Brown Street, it is capped by a low, truncated hip roof. The wide eaves of the tower have a plain boxed cornice supported by brackets in the Italianate manner and with a scalloped fascia. Directly below the brackets is a protruding frieze course of "checkerboard" brickwork.

The windows of the tower's facade have large, segmental openings. They are double-hung sashes headed by segmental leaded and stained-glass transoms suggesting a late nineteenth or early twentieth century improvement. Brick arches occur above these openings and wooden lugsills below.

The other windows of the building have square heads. Both the timber lintels and the lugsills to the older part are boldly executed. The only exceptions to this are the openings on the west wing and the two-storey bay, where wooden lugsills are situated below and brick flat arches are seen above

The main entrance as noted previously on the south facade is square-headed surrounded by sidelights and transom. It is tucked into the west corner of a curved porch characteristic of the Edwardian period and perhaps contemporary with the stained glass work. The porch flat-roofed and with a moulded frieze and bed moulding under its plain cornice, is supported by short Tuscan columns set on high brick pedestals. The porch also has a moulded handrail, plain balustrade and lattice work fill beneath

The plan of the house has been altered extensively first to create a more generous stair hall with a tower entrance leading into a small vestibule or lobby related to the new arrangement that the substantial additions provided.

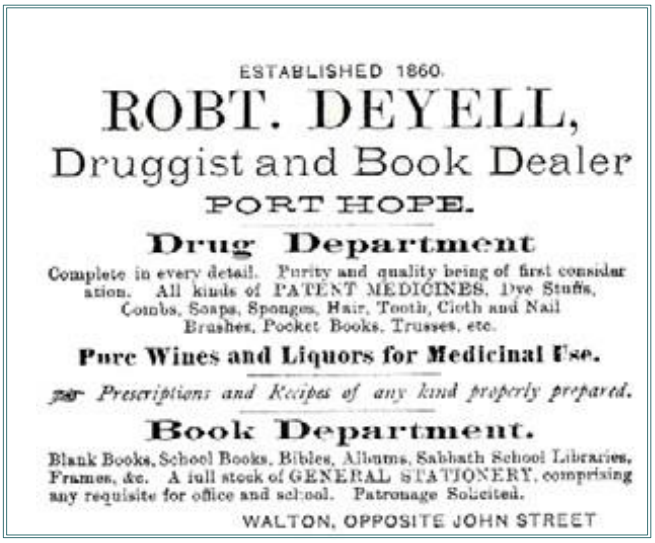
Historical Abstract

In 1877, Robert Deyell bought this property from William G. Stephenson. Stephenson had paid a large amount of money for the property in 1876 after several other high-priced transactions. William G. Stevenson (1833 - 1914) was born in Ireland in 1833 and appears in Port Hope business directories by 1871 as a tailor residing on William Street (36 William Street). During this period, Stevenson built the Stevenson Block (18-22 Queen Street) in two stages as a speculative venture. His tailoring establishment was located in the northern most unit, which was constructed first, then in 1879, two additional units were constructed and leased to tenants. The agreement in Deyell's deed was to payoff an already existing mortgage. The house was probably already built, but could not be paid for.

Robert Deyell (1850-1838) was born in Ontario. Deyell's father, James, established the first gristmill at Millbrook in the 1840's. Robert was a druggist who established his business in 1870 in partnership initially with John B. Woolhouse (who had established a drugstore in 1860), then later on his own. His drug store was located on the corner of Ontario and Walton Street in the Wilsons Block (70-76 Walton) . He not only dispensed medicines but sold books, and pure wines and liquors (for medicinal use only).

In the late 1880's, Deyell began to purchase land on Mill Street in order to erect a three-house terrace later known as the Deyell Terrace (91-95 Mill Street) . In 1912, he had Plan No. 41, the "Deyell Plan", drawn up after the houses were constructed.

Historical Directory Ad


ESTABLISHED 1860.

ROBT. DEYELL,

Druggist and Book Dealer

PORT HOPE.

Drug Department

Complete in every detail. Purity and quality being of first consideration. All kinds of PATENT MEDICINES, Dye Stuffs, Combs, Soaps, Sponges, Hair, Tooth, Cloth and Nail Brushes, Pocket Books, Trusses, etc.

Pure Wines and Liquors for Medicinal Use.

☞ *Prescriptions and Recipes of any kind properly prepared.*

Book Department.

Blank Books, School Books, Bibles, Albums, Sabbath School Libraries, Frames, &c. A full stock of GENERAL STATIONERY, comprising any requisite for office and school. Patronage Solicited.

WALTON, OPPOSITE JOHN STREET

An ad that appeared in an 1880 business directory advertising Robert Deyell's as a Druggist and Book Dealer.