MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 5 Bloomsgrove Avenue

Known as: Robert Horsey House

Architectural Style: Victorian

Date Built: Circa 1870

Date Designated: May 16, 1983 to By-Law No. 31/83, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: PLAN 6 LOT 4 OF LOT 35 STEWART PLAN



Architectural Description

This one and a half storey, two bay house is rectangular in plan and constructed of brick veneer laid in stretcher bond with a coarse rubble foundation. The roof is a high gable, gable end to the street, and contains some decorative trim at the apex. The eaves consist of a plain boxed cornice. The shuttered windows on the upper storey are six over six double-hung sash with plain surround and lugsills. The window on the main floor, also shuttered, has been modernized. The front entrance consists of a later bricked-in porch with what may be the original door with transom.

Single chimneys are at either gable end. A porch on the west side appears to be an early addition to the house, perhaps enlarging an earlier protective cover to the side door. The decorative details on the porch are well handled and appropriately scaled, according to Peter John Stokes, C.R.A.

Historical Abstract

The land on which this house stands was originally part of an eighteen-acre parcel owned by Jonathan Walton and Elias Smith that was part of the original crown grant of 1779. Sarah Shuter, a Smith family member, obtained ownership of the property in 1816 from Elias Smith. In a series of transactions, the land came into the ownership of John L. D. McGill who in 1870 sold nine acres to Peter Robertson and John Mulligan. Part of Park Lot 35 lying east of Ontario Street was registered for Mulligan and Robertson as Plan 6 in March 1871. During the 1870's, 80's and 90's, Robertson and Mulligan sold lots in this nine-acre parcel.

Mulligan was a Port Hope merchant who owned the "Golden Anvil" Hardware store on Walton Street from 1858 to 1878, and resided at 108 Dorset Street West (now known as Muidar). Peter James Robertson was the son of James Robertson who owned the Robertson Estate stretching along Walton and down Queen Street. Peter acquired the land from his father James in 1849, and built (35 Walton and 41-51 Walton Street) , the block in which John Mulligan had his hardware store.

On April 22, 1871, Mulligan and Robertson sold Lots 4 and 5 of their nine-acre parcel to Robert Horsey, Port Hope carpenter. It is unlikely that a house was on the property at that time. Robert Horsey and his wife Harriet were born in England in the 1830's. In Dodds Directory of 1880, Robert Horsey is listed as a carpenter owning one eighth of an acre on Bloomsgrove Avenue. In 1898, Horsey sold 5 Bloomsgrove to a widow, Faminta Scaman, but he continued to reside in Port Hope until his death in 1920.



Architectural Detail

The decorative details on the porch are well handled and appropriately scaled Victorian details.