MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 8 King Street

Known as: Robert Mitchell House

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1850

Date Designated: May 16, 1983 to By-Law No. 31/83, SCHEDULE B-3

Lot Description: PLAN 8 LOT 4, TOWN PLOT LOT 18



Architectural Description

This one and a half storey Gothic cottage has three bays to the ground floor, and is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with a coarse rubble foundation. The steep pitch of the gable roof, the three steeply pointed gables containing pointed windows are distinguishing Gothic characteristics. While the French doors on the ground floor and the front door with sidelights and ogre transom are typical of the Regency style. On the gable ends of the house are returned eaves. The porch in front of the main entrance, with its carved detail is a later addition.

Historical Abstract

In the 1847 New Armour Plan, this lot is shown without a house but the lot has been identified as Robert Mitchell's. On the Wall and Forrest Map of 1853, the house is depicted with the name R. Mitchell. R. Mitchell also appears on the list of subscribers of the map, however, no profession is listed.

Robert Mitchell (1799-1865) is listed in directories of the day as a carpenter and presumed to have constructed this house circa 1850. Originally from Ireland, he arrived in Port Hope in the early 1830's. As an active member of the early Methodist congregation, he along with builder Phillip Fox constructed the first frame Methodist Church located on Brown Street in 1833 (on a lot across the street from the present church.).

His brother, William Mitchell (1799-1871), who was also a carpenter, resided in a dwelling a few doors to the south of Robert's house built circa 1840. Robert's children, the next generation of Mitchell's, established businesses in Port Hope and were prominent merchants. Brothers George A. and John R. operated a drug store on Walton Street under several names: R. Mitchell & Co., Chemists and Druggists, 1865, and G.A. Mitchell and the Central Drug House, 1880 (65 Walton Street). In 1883, John Mitchell established his own store in the Tempest Block (62-68 Walton Street) later selling to T. George Watson.

Other relatives owned and operated a nursery called Ontario Gardens or Mitchell's Gardens located on Molson Street. Robert's daughters, Jane, Letitia (Tish) and Beulah continued to reside at 8 King Street into the 20th century.

Historical Ad





Architectural Detail

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