MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 17 Victoria Street South

Known as: Samuel Coombe Cottage

Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage - Regency

Date Built: Circa 1860

Date Designated: September 15, 1992 to By-Law No. 3381, SCHEDULE B

Lot Description: RIDOUT PLAN 1 PT LOT 3



Architectural Description

This is another of the hip-roofed Ontario cottages for which Port Hope is renowned. It stands one storey high; roughly square in plan with an ell to the rear. Constructed in stretcher-bond brick, it stands on a level site on a corner lot. The facade is symmetrically arranged around a central front door flanked by sidelights and transom, although the door case glazing appears to have been changed. The door is obscured by an awkward porch, which ought to be removed (REMOVED AND RESTORED). Above is a gable, accented by a round-headed window and topped by a spike finial and ornament. Front windows adopt a Venetian theme under wide flat arches. Glazing pattern appears to be original. A similar window appears on the south elevation, and gracing this same elevation is a two-sided bay window. A small porch, perhaps later but not incongruous, is attached to the rear. Chimneys are missing. This house is a good example of the local Ontario cottage style with a three-bay front and centre gable.

Historical Abstract

The property on which the house is situated was part of the original land acquired by Toronto banker, Thomas Gibbs Ridout in 1832. Ridout transferred the lot to the Bank of Upper Canada and bought it back in 1844. Subdivision of the Ridout property and sale of the lots began in 1847.

The Wall and Forrest Map of Port Hope of 1853 shows lot 3 held by Thomas Ridout.

Samuel Coombe purchased an eighth of an acre from Ridout in 1860. Coombe Cottage was built circa 1860. Samuel Coombe (1826-1905) was born in Stowford County, Devon England emigrating to Port Hope during the prosperous early 1850's. He made a contribution as a carpenter during the building boom, and into the following decades. In partnership with mason Richard Trick, who also hailed from Devon, he is known to have participated in the construction of other residences such as the George Hooker House (162 Walton Street). By 1896, he had a door and sash factory on Cavan Street.

The house remained in Samuel Coombe's name until 1905, when George Metcalfe purchased it. It was sold by his widow in 1940 and since then has had only three owners.

Coombe Cottage is a charming example of a red brick Ontario Cottage with the formal symmetry of the three bay front and centre gable. The cottage is layered with Gothic revival details such as the bargeboard decorating the gable, the semi-circular gable window and the brackets decorating the front porch typical of late Victorian design. Of special interest is the front door vestibule that could be seasonally removed in the warmer months. At time of designation, this porch had been removed and replaced with an unattractive replacement as seen in archival photos. Since the house has been designated, this seasonal porch has been restored to its former elegance.



Architectural Detail

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