MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 72 AUGUSTA STREET

Known as: Smith Cottage

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1865

Date Designated: August 30, 1993 to By-Law No. 42/93, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: PLAN SMITH EST LOT 462



Architectural Description

This is a storey and one half brick cottage perched high on a hill with a grand overlook to the south. The simple centre hall plan is punctuated by a protruding centre bay entrance. The porch is a recent addition but photos exist of the house with its original porch, which is charming, and it would be desirable that it was restored. (RESTORED)

The brick has been painted, but evident are the fanned brick arches over the windows. The original stone foundation has been stuccoed. The main windows are large two over two windows with original sash and storms. The shutters are new and not authentic. At the rear is a new-frame porch, which has no historic merit. The house appears to have been built circa 1870. The roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. Originally it was likely wood shingles and restoration of the roof would add greatly to this house. The dramatic setting on a street of historically important houses make this modest cottage as worthy of designation.

Historical Abstract

The house is situated on lot 462 as laid down on a plan of the Estate of the late John David Smith. The land transactions for the property indicate that the lot was exchanged between several Smith family members between 1851 and 1865. In 1865, James L. Russell purchased the property for a sum that suggests a house was included in the transaction. J. Russell was a merchant on Walton Street who sold dry goods, groceries, confectionery, crockery and glassware.

In 1870, James L. Russell sold the property to Henry C. Russell, possibly a relative since both families were originally from Ireland. The Russell brothers were cabinetmakers with oldest brother William F. establishing an upholstery and cabinet making shop in Port Hope in 1850. Henry Russell (1834-1911) established a shop in the 1860's advertising cabinetmaking, upholstery, and organ and melodeon manufacturing in business directories.

In 1871, Henry C. Russell also purchased a cottage on Baldwin Street (31 Baldwin Street) that he later sold in 1879. In 1875, Russell erected the Russell Block (114-116 Walton) . By 1886 , he was experiencing financial difficulties which ultimately led to his losing his commercial block on Walton Street and the sale of his property at 72 Augusta Street.

Historical Directory Ad


H. C. RUSSELL,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN
UPHOLSTERY AND CABINET WARE,
WALTON STREET, PORT HOPE.
ALSO, a large assortment of MELODEONS, from the most celebrated manufacturers, both in Canada and the United States, which will be sold at the manufacturers' prices. Every instrument will be fully warranted. A liberal dis. to schools, halls, and churches.

An ad that appeared for H. C. Russell Upholstery and Cabinet Ware in a business directory of 1865.



Architectural Detail

The porch was restored based on archival photos. The sharply pitched gable and decorative trim are typical of the Gothic Revival style