MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 282 Ridout Street

Known as: Spry House

Architectural Style: Neo-Classic

Date Built: Circa 1880

Date Designated: April 11, 1988 to By-Law No. 39/88, SCHEDULE B-3

Lot Description: LOT 11



Architectural Description

Basically square in plan, this two-storey frame house is covered in clapboard finished with end boards. Its steeply pitched roof has a flat top section and houses a hipped-roof dormer in the front facade. Together with the projecting eaves are a plain-boxed cornice and an unadorned wooden frieze. The window openings are flat with simple wooden surrounds and horizontally louvred shutters. The first-storey main-facade windows have flat structural openings with a segmental stained-glass pane lying over a flat, clear-glass pane. The centred main door has thin recessed sidelights but no transom panel. The door surround is moulded and emblazoned with an entablature.

A columned portico can be seen enhancing the entrance. The columns are doubled at the front corners and support a flat-topped, hipped roof with boxed cornice and a moulded frieze decorated with tiny, paired dentils. Atop the portico is a cut out railing held together by heavy turned spindles with heavy round newels. One can see a large gabled addition attached to a garage at the very rear.

A two-storey clapboard hip roofed house with flat centre deck of the late Neo-classic style. Possibly an earlier single or one and a half storey house of Greek Revival Style. Original six over six windows on ends of building on ground floor. Front windows include stained glass transoms. Columned porch with fret work balustraded balcony and front dormer all part of alterations accompanying circa 1910 enlargement. Single storey rear wing with six over six sash and clapboard finish. Interior trim of southeast room belongs to the earlier period of the house and belongs to a superior reception room such as a parlour. The main posts of the frame of the house are boxed in with finely beaded boards in the corners of the front rooms. The southwest has simpler trim and has been renewed at the windows. The eight-panelled front door, the longer upper panels removed and later glazed, is original and so are five panelled doors upstairs and downstairs found in front rooms. Signs of the early period construction seen in accordion wood lathe from the single storey wing. The roof has been raised and it appears that the rafters of the earlier building have been reused and turned over in the process. White streaks between the original roof boards suggest that the house had a shingled roof laid in lime mortar (possibly).

Historical Abstract

Lot 11 of the Ridout Plan on which this house is situated was part of the original land acquired by Toronto banker, Thomas Gibbs Ridout. Subdivision of the Ridout property and sale of lots began in 1847. As this area of Port Hope developed, it was commonly referred to as "Englishtown".

Thomas Spry purchased lot 11 from T.G. Ridout in 1848. He also purchased the neighbouring lot to the west, lot 12, in 1850 after he purchased this one. Thomas Spry (1811-1884) was a local blacksmith who had his shop on Cavan Street in the 1850's. Originally from England, he appears on local assessments in the mid 1840's. By 1853, he is mentioned in an article in the local paper about successful businesses in Port Hope. He is credited with completing the ironwork of the

schooners "Leander, Admiral and one or more others".

There are no further land transactions for this property until 1873 with several transactions occurring between family members for subdivision of the lot. On the 1874 Bird's Eye View of Port Hope, no buildings of this size and shape are located on this lot, however the neighbouring Forge Cottage (284 Ridout Street) is visible. There appears to be a few small buildings possibly in the location of the rear extension. By 1894, the property has been transferred to Mary Jane Truscott, daughter of Thomas Spry. Mary Jane owned the house until 1909, followed by Florence M. Hill. By 1914, the property transferred to Frederick Earl Inch and his wife, who were owners for over fifty years.



Architectural Detail

The main door has thin recessed sidelights but no transom panel.