MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 53 King Street

Known as: St. Mark's Rectory

Architectural Style: Victorian - Italianate

Date Built: Circa 1878

Date Designated: October 29, 1984 to By-Law No. 52/84, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLOTS 6 TO 7



Architectural Description

St. Mark's Rectory is a good example of the late Victorian villa in red brick complete with its essential exterior details of two storey bay window, paired brackets to eaves, and gables, elaborate front verandah, Victorian sashing and entrance door case.

Historical Abstract

In 1878, local dentist, Thomas Neelands, purchased property from Rea Dickson (husband of Jane Dickson, daughter of John Might, owner of 6 William Street) and is thought to have constructed this house shortly thereafter. Dr. Neelands (1842-1906) was born in Brampton in 1842 and studied Dentistry at the Royal College of Dental Surgeons in Toronto. He established a dental office in Port Hope in 1863 with a location on Walton Street.

In 1876, he arranged for the construction of the Neelands Block on Queen. (7-11 Queen Street). Dr. Neelands occupied the top floor of the Neelands Block and rented the street level north and south commercial areas. He died in 1906. Dr. M.S. Hawkins had worked with Dr. Neelands and eventually purchased the commercial block on Queen Street and his dental practice.

In 1956, St. Mark's Church sold the Ambrose House (50 King Street) in order to purchase this house located directly beside the Church for use as a rectory. Charles Howard Boulden, Rector of St. Mark's Anglican Church, and Church Wardens, Andrew Cowie Morris and J. Randel Perry purchased the house in 1956. Initially the church had hoped to exchange the house at 50 King Street for the house located at 53 King Street. The Church thought they could use the house as a Parish Hall. However, the owners of 53 King Street, Mr. J. H. Thompson, owner of Durham Hardware on Walton (98-106 Walton Street) and his wife Jessie rejected that arrangement. After careful consideration, it was decided the house at 53 King Street would not make an effective Parish Hall. The Church purchased 53 King Street, sold 50 King Street and built a Parish Hall between the two properties behind the church.

The new rectory at 53 King Street was also named the Ambrose Memorial Rectory in honour of the original bequest made by Mrs. Ambrose when she generously donated her house at 50 King Street to be used as the first rectory house of St. Mark's Church.



Archival Photo



View of King Street with St. Mark's and the Rectory enclosed by a fence

Architectural Detail

Two storey bay windows and paired brackets to eaves are typical of late Victorian houses with Italianate details.