MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 48 Bloomsgrove Avenue

Known as: Thomas B. Chalk House

Architectural Style: Romanesque Revival

Date Built: Circa 1890

Date Designated: August 4, 1992 to By-Law No. 49/92, SCHEDULE B-2

Lot Description: PLAN 6 LOT 29, LOT 50 TO 51, PT 30



Architectural Description

This is a fine two-storey brick house built circa 1890. This late Victorian house notable for its fine brick detailing. The centre bay of the house has two large arched top windows with stained glass semicircular transoms. Above is a protruding bay window in frame with fine wood detailing and a large arched top central window. The peak of the roof above has decorative fretwork suggesting a more Edwardian period. The side bay has a similar arched top window

On either side of the house is a porch. The west porch protects the front door located on the side of the building, while the east porch provides a kitchen entrance. Each of these porches has decorative columns and fretwork. A side bay window is similar to the front bay window. The brickwork on the house is noteworthy with decorative brick arches over windows, brick corbels with specially formed brick, brick banding, and decorative brick chimneys. The brick two-storey carriage house at the rear of the property contains two box stalls, a double standing stall as well as a tack room and carriage area.

Historical Abstract

In a series of transactions, the land on which this house stands and nine acres in total came into the ownership of Peter Robertson and John Mulligan in 1870. Part of Park Lot 35 lying east of Ontario Street was registered for Mulligan and Robertson as Plan 6 in March 1871. Mulligan was a Port Hope merchant who owned the "Golden Anvil" Hardware store on Walton Street from 1858 to 1878, and resided at 108 Dorset Street West (now known as Muidar). Peter James Robertson built the Robertson Blocks in 1850, (35 Walton and 41-51 Walton Street), the block in which John Mulligan had his hardware store. During the 1870's, 80's and 90's, Robertson and Mulligan sold lots in this nine-acre parcel.

Thomas Butterfield Chalk, son of Robert Chalk, owner of the Chalk Carriage Works was the owner of this property for nearly 20 years. Robert Chalk (1820-1890), an English immigrant born in Biddeford, Devonshire, England, settled in Port Hope in 1842 and established a wagon and carriage-making business. Chalk Carriage Works (46 Cavan Street) was located on Cavan Street on the steep hill where South and Cavan Street meet, a hill that was sometimes referred to as Chalk's Hill.

The Chalk Carriage Works manufactured lumber wagons, cutters and carriages and provided blacksmithing as well. Thomas worked with his father as a carriage trimmer and carried on with the business after Robert retired shortly before his death in 1890. The Chalk family was in the carriage making trade from 1842 until 1931, and was one of the oldest carriage businesses in Upper Canada.

Thomas B. Chalk married Flora Rosevear in 1886, and purchased this property in 1890 retaining ownership until 1910. He was Mayor of Port Hope in 1905-1906 and again in 1925-1927. He was a member of the East Durham Liberal Conservative Association, chairman of the public school board and member of the United Church. During his second term as Mayor in 1925-27, the town sewers were installed and the streets were paved. In 1927, he was appointed to the Liquor Control Board.

He resided at 52 Bloomsgrove until his death in 1931 at age seventy-three.



Architectural Detail

This late Victorian house is notable for its fine brick detailing. The centre bay of the house has two large arched top windows typical of the Romanesque style.