MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 22 Shortt Street

Known as: Thomas White House

Architectural Style: Queen Anne

Date Built: Circa 1890

Date Designated: August 4, 1992 to By-Law No. 49/92, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: PLAN 1 PT LOTS 7 & 8



Architectural Description

This frame two-storey house was constructed in approximately 1890 on a large ten-acre wooded site. The style can be described as cottage with horizontal wood ship lap siding, six over six windows and simple trim. The plan is unusual with a side entrance accentuated by a simple but elegant porch. High pitched cross axis roofs add particular interest to this house. A small garage or shed is also important architecturally. Its simple roof and symmetrical six over six windows and clapboard siding makes it reminiscent of east coast fishing sheds. The front of the house has an elegant picket fence. This, together with large trees sets the context for the excellent example of late 19th century cottage architecture.

Historical Abstract

The Williams Subdivision is comprised of the east half of lot 9, concession 1 of Hope Township west of Victoria Street. In 1804, the property was granted to Thomas Ridout (1754-1829). Thomas Ridout Sr. came from England to settle in York in the year 1797. By 1810 he was Surveyor-General of Upper Canada. His son, Thomas Gibbs Ridout (1792-1861) later purchased neighbouring lot 8. In 1823, John Tucker Williams purchased lot 9 from Mrs. Ann Ridout and the estate of Thomas Ridout Sr.

In 1833, J.T. Williams sold thirty-six acres just north of the Lakeshore Road to Reverend James Coghlan, Rector of St. Mark's Church, formerly St. John's (51 King Street), from 1830-1836. He built a grammar school, the equivalent of a present day high school, on part lot 8 and 15 of the area that would later be known as the Williams Estate Plan. The house located at 200 Bruton Street was the former school.

In 1836, Reverend Jonathan Shortt became Rector of St. Mark's, and he took over Reverend Coghlan's teaching duties at the grammar school. The naming of Shortt Street commemorates Reverend Jonathan Shortt who conducted the services at St. Mark's Church from 1836-67.

Construction of the two-storey frame house on part lot 7 and 8 did not occur until much later in the century. There were several land transactions for purchase of the lot in the late 1850's. Lewis J. Truscott purchased the lot in 1858 and took out a very small mortgage from William Dodd. Upon the death of William Dodd in 1864, the mortgage transferred to Edward Dodd, then Truscott transferred the property to Edward Dodd. Upon the death of Edward Dodd in 1882, John Mulligan and William Craig Junior were appointed trustees. In 1886, the trustees sold the lot to Thomas White, a local mason. White was originally from England, born in 1838, and as of the 1881 census had four daughters and one son.

In the 1880 business directory, Thomas White was the owner of an eighth of an acre on Victoria Lane. Maps of the period do not show a Victoria Lane so it is difficult to know the location being referenced. It is thought that Mr. White erected this house sometime after the purchase of the property in 1886. The house remained in the White family for many decades transferring to the White children in 1929.



Architectural Detail

A white picket fence completes this late Victorian streetscape.