MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 143 Walton Street

Known as: Thomas Wilcock House

Architectural Style: Walton Street Heritage District - Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1845

Date Designated: October 29, 1984 to By-Law No. 52/84, SCHEDULE B-3

Lot Description: STEWART PLAN TOWN PLOT; PT LOT 67 PT LOT 68



Architectural Description

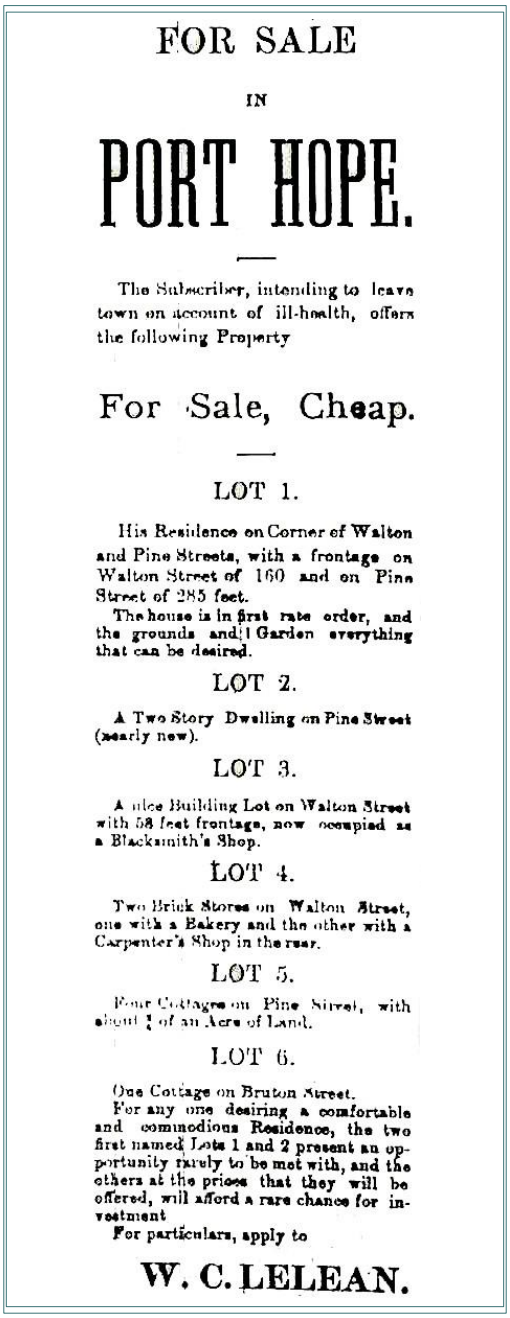
This two-storey rectangular brick house constructed in Flemish bond has three bays with a centre entrance and a gabled roof with parapet walls and end chimneys. The cornice is boxed with a sloped soffit. The windows are six-over-six sash with flat arches of radiating brick, wooden lugsills, and shutters; several windows on the west wall have been bricked in. The front door has a flat transom light and is recessed with a carved embrasure; the door surround is composed of carved wood with a decorated lintel. An 1878 photograph of the south side of Walton Street reveals a verandah on the front of this house. This building shares many of the features of the original Bank of Upper Canada building (118-120 Walton Street) that is of almost the same era.

Historical Abstract

John David Smith sold the one-acre parcel on which this house is situated to Port Hope blacksmith, Thomas Wilcock in 1845. Thomas Wilcock (1805-1888) was born in Cornwall, England and emigrated to Port Hope in 1831. He was a blacksmith and turner. In a business directory of 1851, Wilcock describes his blacksmith shop as "smithwork of every description attended to, turning in metal and wrought iron in all its branches executed in the best style, upon moderate terms."

Prior to 1850, Wilcock's blacksmith shop was located on the northwest corner of Walton and Brown Streets. On the 1853 Wall and Forrest map of Port Hope, this corner lot, bounded by Pine and Walton Streets, is shown as being owned by Thomas Wilcock. In 1866, Wilcock sold this property (143 Walton Street) to William Cox Lelean, local merchant.

Historical Newspaper Ad



FOR SALE

IN

PORT HOPE.

The Subscriber, intending to leave town on account of ill-health, offers the following Property

For Sale, Cheap.

LOT 1.

His Residence on Corner of Walton and Pine Streets, with a frontage on Walton Street of 160 and on Pine Street of 285 feet.

The house is in first rate order, and the grounds and Garden everything that can be desired.

LOT 2.

A Two Story Dwelling on Pine Street (nearly new).

LOT 3.

A nice Building Lot on Walton Street with 58 feet frontage, now occupied as a Blacksmith's Shop.

LOT 4.

Two Brick Stores on Walton Street, one with a Bakery and the other with a Carpenter's Shop in the rear.

LOT 5.

Four Cottages on Pine Street, with about ¾ of an Acre of Land.

LOT 6.

One Cottage on Bruton Street.

For any one desiring a comfortable and commodious Residence, the two first named Lots 1 and 2 present an opportunity rarely to be met with, and the others at the prices that they will be offered, will afford a rare chance for investment

For particulars, apply to

W. C. LELEAN.

William Cox Lelean (1833-1872) and his brother Samuel (1836) were born in

Megavissey, Cornwall. They emigrated to the United States in the mid 1850s then came to Canada and established a dry goods store on Walton Street. Directory listings describe their specialty as "importers and dealers in dry goods, millinery, boots and shoes." They were active Methodists, and William held the position of President of the Young Men's Christian Association in 1871. Lelean had purchased neighbouring properties, 135 Walton Street and 141 Walton Street in 1857.

In 1871, Lelean began selling his land holdings in this section of Walton Street, and Port Hope saddler, Thomas Earl, bought this westernmost section. In 1903 the property was sold as part of Thomas Earl's estate. The house was later subdivided into apartments in 1978.



Architectural Detail

An 1878 photograph of the south side of Walton Street reveals a verandah on the front of this house. In the following for sale ad, William Lelean also mentions that the grounds and gardens "are everything to be desired" suggesting the wedge shaped lot provided a generous yard.