MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 345 Lakeshore Road

Known as: William & Augusta Fraser House (Dunain)

Architectural Style: Georgian

Date Built: Circa 1857

Date Designated: October 26, 1998 to By-Law No. 56/98, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: CON 1 PT LOT 9 PT LOT 10



Architectural Description

This house is one of few older houses in Port Hope that until now has been retained within the same family since construction. The property has been in the family since 1818, and the house constructed in 1857. It was named Dunain after the family's ancestral home near Inverness in Scotland. The house was built by William A. Fraser on land given by his wife's family, the Williams, owners of Penryn Homestead. In 1898, the house was taken over by Mr. Fraser's daughter, Sarah and her husband, Frederick Barlow Cumberland. The Cumberland coat of arms etched on stained glass graces the front entrance window.

The style of the original house is Loyalist Georgian with its dignified symmetry but the older rules of symmetry were gradually being discarded and this house exhibits a breakaway from the rigid symmetry of earlier Georgian houses, particularly in plan. The porch and portico were added to the north side in the latter part of the century, as was the conservatory to the south, which was rebuilt again in the early part of the 20th century. The original portion of the house is a two storey red brick structure with a symmetrically placed front door, and symmetrically placed windows. The roof is a hip roof with wide overhangs and bold cornice fascia. The roof culminates in a glass roofed Belvedere bringing light into the central hall below. There is a west wing, probably originally servants' quarters constructed in the same manner as the main house and capped by a Belvedere, lighting the centre hall of this wing. A further addition was made to this west wing to accommodate a more modern kitchen, constructed in a similar manner to the original house. Some more modern reorganization of windows has marred the otherwise consistent addition.

In the latter part of the 19th century, the front portico and porch were added to the north side of the house, the style of which is more Classic Revival popular in that period. The porch, and new front hall it creates, disguises the symmetry of the main house behind. The porch itself however is a good example of the classical period with classical Doric columns and a wide entablature and in-filled with large windows extending to the ceiling inside. These windows are an eight over sixteen central window with four over eight sidelights on both floors, and sides of the portico and panelled. The railing for the upper porch completes this classical composition.

To the southeast is a conservatory constructed in steel and is an excellent example of early 20th century greenhouse construction. This present structure replaces an earlier conservatory now lost to memory but its earlier outline can be seen on the south brick wall of the house. The elegant steel structure with gracefully curved steel members and greenhouse hardware is worthy of its own designation. The exterior trim of the conservatory is Victorian in its style, consistent with conservatory design of its day. The house is constructed with a stone basement of limestone with interesting window treatment consisting of brick arch surrounds. The main house is red brick laid up in classical Flemish Bond with handsome double soldiers course fan arches over the windows. The windows are six over six double hung wood windows in the main part of the house with wood shutters. The east elevation features a large two-storey bay window. Originally the bay was likely only one

storey and the second storey added in the latter part of the 19th century exhibits a more Queen Ann Style, not consistent with the original house. The north has a handsome French door. The seven chimneys of the house are brick with corbelled coursing at the top. The four central chimneys are interesting in that they are in the centre of the house, rather than on exterior walls and make a fine composition in the Belvedere. There is also other brick corbelling on the house, such as at the floor line in the west wing and over the bay window.

Interior:

From the entrance one finds oneself in a grand central Hall punctuated by decorative plaster arched openings, one in the centre of the hall, one at the staircase. The ceiling has a wide decorative plaster moulding with a decorative dentil frieze. Deep baseboards, wide trim and wainscoting complete this ground floor hall. The major rooms repeat the feeling in the hall with the living room having a large decorative arch over the bay window and a large flat arch with plant motif brackets breaking the length of the room. The dining room has a panelled ceiling. The stair is gracious, ascending in two flights running at right angles to the hall and culminates in a landing lit by one of the great Belvederes. One Belvedere is solid roof with clerestory windows while the other over the hall entrance to the bedrooms is a glass-roofed structure making an unusual but delightful feature in this house. The house also boasts a number of marble fireplace surrounds of exceptional quality.

Historical Abstract

When Augusta Williams, daughter of J.T. Williams, married William Fraser in 1857, they were given a parcel of land severed from her father's estate, Penryn Homestead (82 Victoria Street South).

William Fraser (1821-1894), originally from Inverness Scotland, came to Canada in 1840, and Port Hope in 1846, as the representative of a group of Montreal merchants. They built their home on this property in 1857 and called it Dunain, which translated means Hill of the Birds.

In 1850, William Fraser became the first elected Mayor of Port Hope and held a number of prestigious positions throughout his career including agent for Canada Western Assurance, director of the Bank of Toronto, stockholder of the Midland Loan and Savings Company, advocate of the Midland Railway, and active member of the militia as Captain of the 46th Battalion. number of marble fireplace surrounds of exceptional quality. In 1859, William Fraser had constructed a commercial block on the main street at the corner of Walton and Cavan Street (108-112 Walton Street).

Upon the death of William Fraser in 1894, Augusta and her daughter Lily remained at Dunain. In 1898, Frederic Barlow Cumberland (1847-1913), son of Frederic W. Cumberland (1820-1881) architect for the Bank of Upper Canada (86 John Street), who had married Sarah Fraser, daughter of William and Augusta, bought Dunain. Augusta Williams Fraser died at Dunain in 1911 at age 73, and Frederic Barlow Cumberland died there at age 65 in 1913. Upon the death of Sarah Fraser Cumberland the property passed to their daughter, Mildred Wotherspoon. Of all of the large estate houses in Port Hope, Dunain is the only property that has remained in the ownership of successive generations of the same family.



Architectural Detail

The porch and portico were added to the north side in the latter part of the century, as was the conservatory to the south, which was rebuilt again in the early part of the 20th century.