MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 56 Queen Street

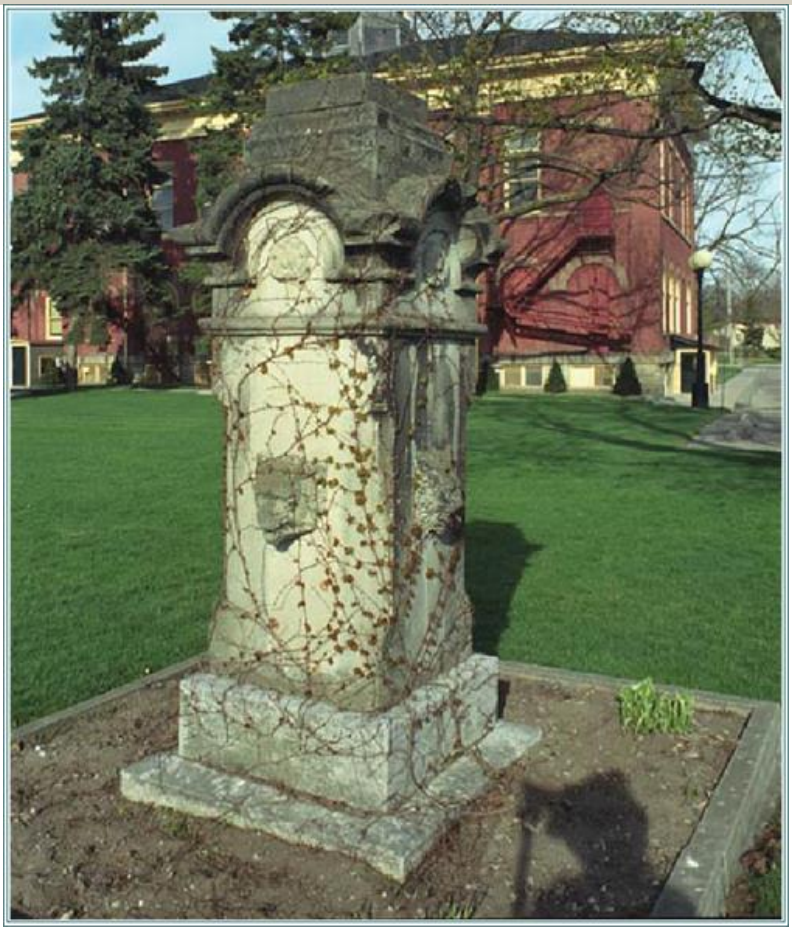
Known as: The William Craig Fountain

Architectural Style: Monument

Date Built: Circa 1878

Date Designated: June 27, 1994 to By -Law No. 23/94, SCHEDULE B-1

Lot Description: PT LOT 51



Architectural Description

The historic water fountain erected in 1878 by Mayor Craig, located on the property at the rear of Town Hall was made of freestone and stands about ten feet high. On each of its four sides is a lion's head. The fountain has not been operational for many years but when it was functioning water poured from the mouth of each lion head in a stream into a trough below. It is inscribed that it was erected by Mayor Craig in 1878.

Historical Abstract

In 1878, during the second tenure of Mayor William Craig, one of the lasting gifts that Mayor Craig gave Port Hope was a stone fountain that was erected directly behind the Town Hall. His generous donation was the result of a need to bring drinking water to the Market Square. Mayor Craig offered to pay for the construction of the fountain if the Market Committee was able to secure water to flow through it. The fountain provided fresh water for townspeople and their horses. The erection of the fountain was entrusted to Joseph Hooper, proprietor of a monument business on Walton Street.

William Craig (1819-1891) was one of the most prominent men in the early affairs of Port Hope. A native of Yorkshire, England, he came to Port Hope in 1852 and established a leather tannery on Cavan Street that would endure into the 20th century. William Craig operated, William Craig and Sons, Morocco Factory and Tannery, for thirty-nine years until his death in 1891 when his son William Jr. succeeded him.

Like many other prominent businessmen, Craig also turned to politics and served as mayor for four years, first in 1866 and 1867 during Confederation, and again in 1877 and 1878. His political career also included a number of years as a councilor, harbour commissioner, high school trustee and trustee of the harbour bonds.

As an active member of the local Baptist congregation, he donated a piece of property for construction of the first Baptist Church on John Street (57 John Street) erected in 1869. Other philanthropic endeavours included Charter President of the Port Hope Benevolent Society when it was formed in 1862, and active supporter of the YMCA when it was first established in Port Hope on John Street in 1874. (50 John Street).



Monument Detail

When functioning water pours from the mouth of each lion head in a stream originally into a trough below.