MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 50 King Street

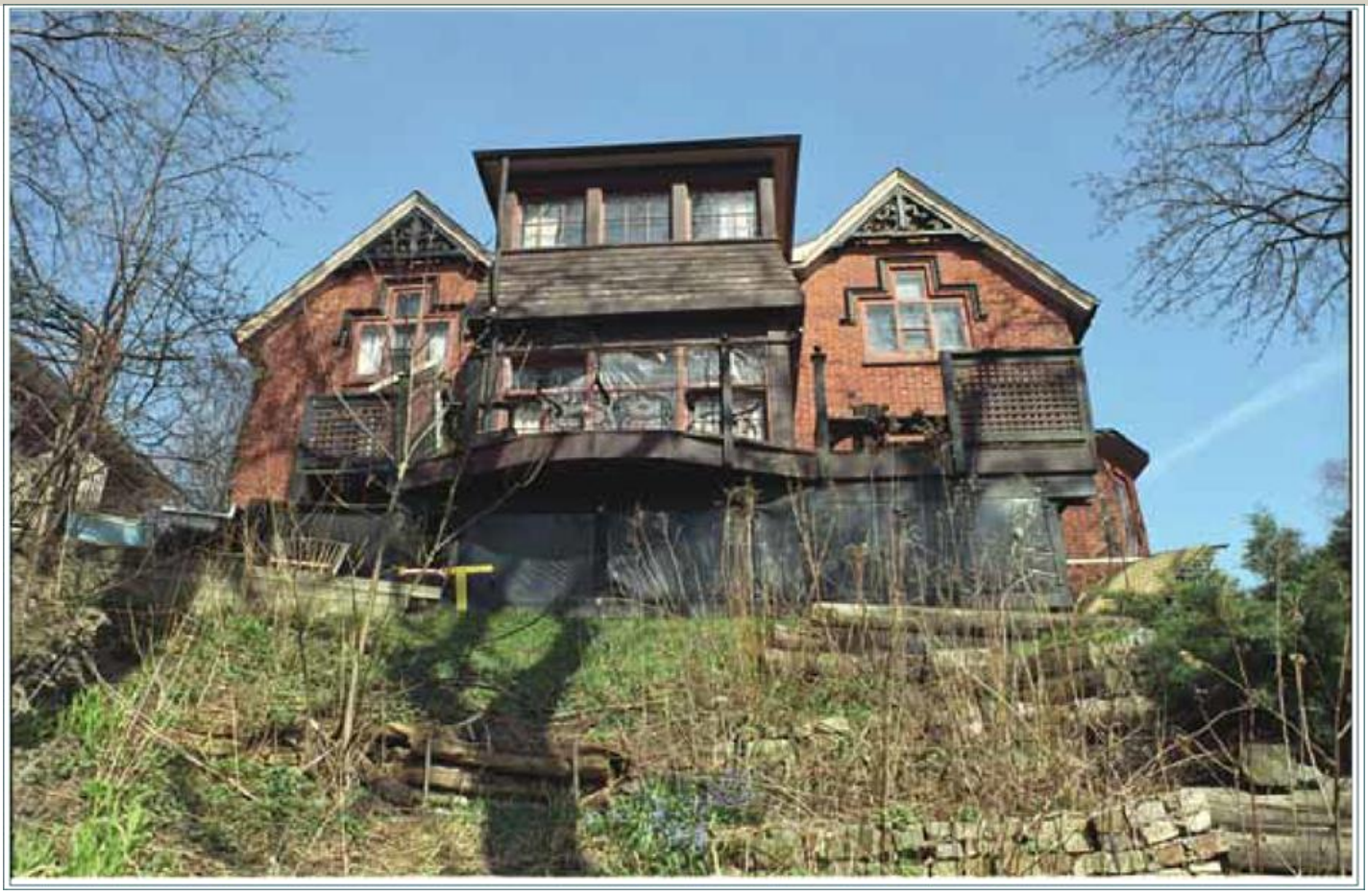
Known as: William Garnett House

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1875

Date Designated: September 30, 1985 to By-Law No. 62/85, SCHEDULE B-5

Lot Description: PT TOWN PLAN LOT 20



Architectural Description

This two-storey Gothic cottage in the Victorian vernacular is clad in brick laid in the stretcher bond pattern. The house actually sits facing away from the street so the view fronting the street is the original rear portion. The original front facade (not seen from King Street) has twin gables of a fairly steep pitch. The cornice is decorated by a moulded fascia board and bed moulding. The eaves are over-hanging. The gable has a T-shaped open fill with scrolled detailing. These gable wings, like the single wing facing the street, run from a centred portion with a steeply pitched hipped roof. The twin gable wings each have in their second storey, a triple-sash window with the middle sash crowned by a quatrefoil transom. Below on the first storey, are triple-sash windows with each sash topped by the quatrefoil panes. Like all the original windows, this is headed by a moulded Elizabethan Gothic label. The original main entrance is on the front facade, not the street facade, and is now enclosed by a two-storey glassed-in sunroom. The upper storey wall inside exhibits a lancet door in a moulded surround, which once protruded from the roof line in the fashion of a dormer. On the first floor, the original door can be seen in its moulded surround with quatrefoil-capped sidelights.

The rear wing is now used as the main facade for the home. The gable end of this wing has single-sash windows in moulded recessed surrounds with quatrefoil transom panels above. A flat-roofed addition has been added to the north, which now houses the main entrance - a flat opening with a soldier course overhead. A wooden railing replaces iron cresting which once topped the addition. Two eyebrow windows sit recessed above the door and windows on the main facade of the wing. eyebrow windows sit recessed above the door and windows on the main facade of the wing.

The building sits on a coarse rubble foundation. It is interesting to note the similarity in design between this house and another at 59 Francis Street in Port Hope. William Garnett built both and has employed the same window groupings, quatrefoil transoms and T-shaped gable fills. The stairwell and surrounding wood panelling is of particular note. The interior brickwork is original. The wood mouldings are original.

Historical Abstract

On the Bird's Eye View of Port Hope of 1874, the west side of King Street between Baseline (Dorset) Street extending to the north approximately parallel with St. Mark's Church (51 King Street) shows only one large house, the residence of John Hume (located at the stairway named Jacob's Ladder). In 1875, Robert Charles Smith who resided south on King Street (61 King Street) sold part of Town Plot Lot 20 to William Garnett.

William Garnett was an established architect and builder, whose building achievements during the 1850's included construction of Hill and Dale (47 Pine Street S.), and the alterations that were made to St. Mark's Church in 1851 (51 King Street). Born in England in 1818, he came to Canada in 1849 and immediately began work on some important contracts. By 1853, he had established a Carpenter Shop with a planing machine, which merited mention in the local paper. Garnett is credited with the house

construction sometime after the purchase of the land circa 1875.

In 1884, William Garnett sold the house and property to Reverend Jonas Stamers Baker. Reverend Baker was the fourth Rector of St. Mark's during the period from 1878-1894. Born in Ireland in 1827, he came to Canada in 1861. After his death in 1894, ownership of the house was transferred to his wife, Grace Rowed Baker.

Mrs. Baker experienced health problems and was absent from the house away in hospital. By 1910, the house was sold on her behalf by the Inspector of Public Charities. After changing hands several times, by 1922, widow Ada Marjory Ambrose purchased the house. In 1948, Mrs. Ambrose donated her house, in memory of her late husband Thomas, to St. Mark's Church to be used as a rectory. For the first time in its history, St. Mark's had a rectory, providing a home for the Reverend Charles Howard Boulden and his wife.

In 1956, St. Mark's Church sold 50 King Street in order to purchase the house directly beside the church for use as a rectory (53 King Street). The house has remained a private residence since that sale.



Architectural Detail

The gable wings each have a triple-sash window with the middle sash crowned by a quatrefoil transom. Below on the first storey, are triple-sash windows with each sash topped by quatrefoil panes. Like all the original windows, this is headed by a moulded Elizabethan Gothic label.