MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 15 Baldwin Street

Known as: William Hewson House

Architectural Style: Ontario Cottage - Regency

Date Built: Circa 1850

Date Designated: April 15, 1985 to By-Law No. 21/85, SCHEDULE B-3

Lot Description: N PT LOT 6 N OF WALTON, PT TOWN PLOT LOT 91



Architectural Description

As with its neighbour at 11 Baldwin, this is a one-storey cottage from the north facade, while a view of the south facade shows two storeys. This is a classic example of the Ontario Cottage. It is a three-bay cottage with a centre gable in its hipped roof. The narrow east chimney is exterior and probably a later addition. The foundation is of random rubble and the house is done in narrow clapboard. The building has well-proportioned exterior features and a centre-hall plan. At the gable peak in the centre of the main facade sits a finial and drop. Directly below this, tucked into the gable, is a semi-circular fanlight divided into five parts by narrow radiating muntins.

Between the main facade's windows and directly below the fanlight is a small, enclosed porch. The main entrance, with its multi-panelled door, is located on the east side of the porch and small double windows of three panes each are located on the front face of the porch. It has a truncated hipped roof and eave detailing, sympathetic to the main structure. Strips of lath section the clapboard on the front of this vestibule. The sashed windows are six-over-six and have slightly protruding lugsills that are decorated with end drops resembling acorns. The windows are treated with eared label surrounds. The horizontally louvred shutters on the main facade are probably not original and are used primarily for decoration.

Historical Abstract

The Baldwin Plan is comprised of Town Plot Lot 91, nine and a half acres which was purchased by Dr. William Warren Baldwin in 1813. Dr. Baldwin was a prominent citizen of Upper Canada residing in Toronto and practising medicine as well as law. Upon his death in 1844, his son William A. Baldwin continued to sell lots in Town Plot Lot 91. The naming of Baldwin Street commemorates the early landowner.

Hewson Cottage is another example of a fine dwelling being built by local craftsmen during the building boom of the early 1850's. 15 Baldwin Street and its neighbour to the east, 11 Baldwin Street, were built by William and Henry Hewson. On the Wall and Forrest Map of 1853, two dwellings are shown on the south side of Baldwin Street, the west dwelling assigned to William Hewson, and the east dwelling identified as Henry Hewson's.

The Hewson brothers were born in England and arrived in Port Hope in the early 1840's. An early Canada Directory (1851) lists William Hewston (sp) and H. Hewston as carpenters residing on Brown Street. A later Canada Classified Directory (1865-66) lists only Henry Hewson as a carpenter and builder. William died in 1857 leaving the house to his wife, Frances. In later directories, Frances ran a boarding house on Brown Street. An ad in the local paper indicated that she was renting this house on Baldwin Street in later decades.



Architectural Detail

Many of the Ontario Cottages in Port Hope display a finial and drop at the gable peak with a semi-circular fanlight divided into five parts by narrow radiating muntins directly below.