MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 33 King Street

Known as: William M. Smith House

Architectural Style: Classic Revival

Date Built: Circa 1848

Date Designated: April 11, 1988 to By-Law No. 38/88, SCHEDULE B-4

Lot Description: SMITH ESTATE PLAN LOTS 41 TO 43



Architectural Description

This three bay, two storey brick house stands over a high basement, once the kitchen. Notable as an example of a Port Hope town house, its exterior detail includes a finely executed ornamental frieze in brick, parapet walls, with twin chimneys, and panelled piers forming the lower ends. Raking sections of parapets have projecting string and cap courses. South chimneys still have original corbelled caps. The windows have original sash of six panes over six of twelve by eighteen-inch glass.

The house is now a composite with a turn of the century addition to the south end. Also two stories, and built of brick. This has a verandah across the west front and down the south side, its plan with curved corners and its denticulated frieze typical of the period. This addition has a front bay window lighting the new drawing room. The change represented by this addition also altered the original front entrance to the side opening off the verandah.

The interior has been modified but still exhibits some of the early detail representative of the Greek Revival such as the two panelled doors with bevelled carcasses and simple broad trim. The staircase is probably in large part original to the house, and is of the simple bold Greek Revival treatment with square newels, panelled, and having bevelled fielding, the balusters a bold vase shaped turning. Upstairs and in the basement kitchen area the trim is a fillet cyma reversa back mould, with beaded edge to the architrave.

On the main floor variations of the cyma recta form occurs. The remains of moulded plaster cornices occur in the hall and front room of the older section. Most notable is the fine plaster cornices occuring in the hall and front room of the older section. Most notable is the fine plaster cornice in the rear room. This detail includes a low relief repetitive foliate band with small floral drops in the corners. The ceiling rosette in this room has been lost. Additional detail includes panelled spandrels below the front windows, which are also embrasured. The later drawing room contains a coal-burning fireplace with cast iron insert and grate. The mantel being a later 19th century variety of the stock pattern, believed to be of slate with a wooden mantel of the typical curved broken front form. There is also a double-sided dumbwaiter from the dining room to the basement.

Historical Abstract

In 1848, Dr. William Miller Smith, the fifth son of John David Smith, builder of the Bluestone (21 Dorset Street East) built the left or townhouse portion of this house. At the turn of the century the house underwent a dramatic change with the addition of a two-storey wing on the south side. The curving verandah that extends across the west and south sides was part of that addition.

At the time of its construction circa 1848, there were several contemporary urban style townhouses in the King Street or as it was called the Protestant Hill neighbourhood (92 King Street, 6 William Street) displaying similar features: parapet walls that extend beyond the roof line and the building positioned close to the lot line.

Dr. William Miller Smith (1815-1854) married Charlotte Ward (1824-1852), the youngest

daughter of Judge Thomas Ward in 1841. William was the only son of John David Smith who pursued a career in medicine. In 1852, he was a Board Member of the Harbour Commissioners along with his brothers, John Shuter Smith and E.P. Smith who was Chairman.

A former resident of the house was Judge Henry Albert Ward, a Member of Parliament. In 1889, he was host to Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue erected in front of the Town Hall in honour of Col. A.T.H. Williams, the Hero of Batoche (56 Queen Street).

Another former resident was Reginald Percy Vivian, M.D., M.P.P. and M.P., and former Minister of Health in the original Drew Cabinet in 1943. Dr. Vivian was the originator of Public Health Units, and architect of the present health care system in Ontario.



Architectural Detail

The house is now a composite with a turn of the century two-storey addition to the south end including a verandah across the west front and down the south side.