MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 184 Walton Street

Known as: Williams Duplex

Architectural Style: Victorian

Date Built: Circa 1875

Date Designated: April 2, 1991 to By-Law No. 30/91, SCHEDULE B-3

Lot Description: PLAN 21 PT LOT



Architectural Description

This building is half of a duplex. A mirror image of its twin next door, it stands two-storeys high with a gable roof. It has an "urban" feel to it, confined by a relatively narrow frontage and enhanced by a parapet firewall, corbel, and attractively styled end chimneys. Sadly this feature is lacking on the house next door and although this example has been patched, it is still a worthy feature. The composition is enhanced by a gabled "frontispiece", which projects slightly from the facade. This in turn is graced by a bay window (at ground level), complete with cornice and brackets. At second-floor level, the "frontispiece" bears two windows.

All the bays are segmentally arched, except the louvred attic vent, which is round arched. Original two-over-two sash remain in each window. Entrance is a four-panel door; the upper two panels are glazed.

The house is built in running bond brick, which exhibits spalling in places. Cornice is not ornamented. Arches and sills are painted, although this finish is debatable as a heritage item. With its tall, upright appearance, the building complements the urban character of upper Walton Street and merits designation for its Victorian design.

Historical Abstract

On the Bird's Eye View of Port Hope of 1874 there are no buildings visible on the lot where this house and its semi-detached neighbour stand extending east to the corner of Hagerman Street.

Plan 21 was registered in the Registry Office on the 29th of May, 1871 as a subdivision of part of Park Lot 90 in the original Town Plot Lot made by local surveyor George A. Stewart for William Carveth, John Watson Wallace and William Lonsdale. As part of that subdivision three small lots were laid out on the north side of Walton Street extending to the corner of Hagerman Street.

In 1869, William Carveth purchased lot 3 and 2. William Carveth was a bricklayer who in 1871, along with J.W. Wallace, built the Old Firehall on Walton Street (19-23 Walton Street). His father, William Sr. was a stonemason and bricklayer during the building boom of the 1850's. By the 1870's, he had become a butcher, joining other family members who were involved in that trade.

In 1871, William Carveth sold Lot 2 to George Williams. Williams was also a mason who during the 1870's resided on Harris Street. George Williams took out a mortgage with Dr. John Clemesha suggesting he was going to build a house on the lot perhaps a speculative venture since he built a two-unit semi detached dwelling.

By April 1884, George Williams sold the property to Andrew C. Ellis, realizing a significant profit and paying off the mortgage with Dr. Clemesha. Andrew C. Ellis, originally from Wesleyville, married in October 1886, sold the semi-detached house to Albert Mounteer in 1888, and moved to Ottawa.

The Mounteer family had a farm in Wesleyville. Albert's father, Charles, was originally from Yorkshire, England emigrating to Canada in 1842. Albert (1860-1903) was born in Ontario in 1860. His brother, Hedley was born the same year.

Through a series of transactions by family members, by 1894, Hedley Mounteer and brother Albert owned the duplex. By 1903, Albert Mounteer had died and brother Hedley acquired both units. In 1910, Hedley Mounteer sold one unit to William Roskelly, a mason, and the other unit to Robert Edmunds and the properties were conveyed as two separate units from this point forward.

