



WESTAWAY HOUSE  
circa 1884 (original circa 1850's)

*Date Designated: June 27, 2003 to By-Law No. 27/2003, SCHEDULE B-1*

*Lot Description: LOT 548 PT LOT 549 N/S*

— ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION —

Overlooking Bruton Street and backing onto Clayton's Lane on a lot originally part of the Smith estate. This Victorian house includes many early elements which were incorporated into the present house after Richard Westaway, who owned a furniture store on John Street, bought it in 1884. On a stone foundation, clad in brick veneer, the house is L-shaped with three gables. There are two clapboard extensions at the rear, one enclosing the kitchen and a recent one an office. The latter is not included in the designation.

Of particular note is the elegant front verandah sheltering the storm porch with oversized finely detailed doors dating from the

1850's. Other important features include wooden windows with original shutters, three ornately carved stone lintels and on the western elevation a deep bay and narrow verandah. Interior features, confirming that the house was built in at least two stages, include mouldings from the 1850's and 1880's, pine and maple board flooring, and a Rumford fireplace with an ornate marble chimney piece.

With more than twenty steps in the flight leading to its front door the house faces south, high on the hill overlooking Bruton Street. On the north it backs onto Clayton's Lane opposite the site of the old cemetery. Of brick veneer in common bond on a stone foundation, the house is L-shaped with three gables. There are two clapboard additions at the rear, one enclosing the kitchen and a more recent one enclosing an office. The latter is not included in the designation. A long gable runs east to west and a short gable runs south on the east side of the facade. The windows throughout are wood, most with their original operable shutters. They are glazed four-over-four, two-over-two or one-over-one, some are

*circa 1884 (original circa 1850's)*

*Victorian*

rounded, others flat topped. Recently, five windows and three pairs of shutters have been restored.

The gable end has four two-over-two windows, the lower ones with eared lintels of stone ornately carved. On the gable's east, an elegant five-sided open verandah shelters an elaborate storm porch. The verandah is supported by narrow chamfered pilasters and pillars under a bracketed sloping roof, the cornice of which has a delicate keyhole design. Recently the verandah has been restored (2002) and a handrail has been added to the steps.

The storm porch is of particular note. It is in the corner of the verandah with the entrance facing south. On its eastern exposure is a pair of narrow round-arched windows. Both doors are typical of the 1850's and are reputed to have been saved from a fire at a former grand house on Walton Street. Above the transom of the outer door are two large half-moon lights. The casing on either side of the door is panelled. The upper two thirds of the door is glazed, divided by wooden mullions in a simple geometric pattern.

The inner door like the outer is exceptionally large (93 in. by 40 in.) and handsomely detailed. The lower third is solid and designed to include an, unusual elliptical panel. Above are two windows similar to the two on the east side of the porch. In the interior the surrounding moulding has corner blocks establishing that the doors predate Westaway's purchase of the house.

At the end of the west gable is a deep bay with windows to the south and west. The upper window has a lintel matching those on the facade. To the south of the bay is a narrow verandah with posts the same as the front verandah. Steps have been added recently. There is no entry from this verandah to the house.

The mouldings vary even within the same room. Some could be as early as the 1840's and others are from the 1880's. The early mouldings and the enclosed staircase as well as the brick veneer indicate that an early

frame house was incorporated into the present brick and clapboard one. Wide board pine floors and narrow board maple floors are found in the three main rooms on the first floor further confirming that there have been additions and alterations over the years. A fine Rumford fireplace in the south room with its exceedingly ornate chimney piece was probably moved from another house.

—  HISTORICAL ABSTRACT  —

In 1846, John David Smith willed lot 549 to Augusta H., Elias Peter, and John Shuter Smith. In 1850, John Shuter Smith bought out the other Smith trustees and it remained in his possession until his death in 1871 when it was willed to his wife, Josephine et al. In 1878, his wife's heirs sold the lot to Cornelius Quinlan.

Lot 549 was only one of the many lots owned by Smith on Bruton and Pine Streets. Quinlan's name, as well as Smith's appears frequently on property transactions that took place in Port Hope during the last half of the nineteenth century. Smith's own house (circa 1850) was Rose Lawn (**78 Pine Street South**). Both Smith's and Quinlan's obituaries state that their deaths took place at Rose Lawn making it unlikely that either man ever lived at 30 Bruton. Within the present house there is evidence of a much earlier frame one probably built by Smith as an investment and let by Smith and Quinlan to family members or tenants.

John Shuter Smith was the fourth son of John David Smith who built the Bluestone (**21 Dorset Street East**). One of Port Hope's leading citizens, John Shuter Smith was twice Mayor, appointed by Council in 1854-55, and elected by the people in 1868. On his death an exceptionally long obituary took up one complete column in the Guide including not only his 'good works' but also a detailed description of the funeral including the hymns, one of which he had written himself.

Cornelius Quinlan was a successful trader and manufacturer whose business was located in the Quinlan Block (**78-92 Walton Street**). In the 1870's, he was taking out large advertisements on the front page of the Guide announcing that he dealt in stoves, tin, sheet-iron and copper-ware, coal oil and coal oil three pairs of shutters have been restored.

*circa 1884 (original circa 1850's)*

*Victorian*

lamps as well as claiming that he paid the highest prices for sheep and calf-skins, wool and wool-pickings, paper and woollen rags, old copper, brass, iron, etc. He was an elected Mayor serving from 1861 to 1865. Later in the century, in 1885, his son, J.W. Quinlan, would found the Electric Light Co. By a codicil to Quinlan's will, the property came into possession of Eliza Jane Dixon, his daughter, in 1882. Two years later acting as Dixon's trustee, Seth Smith, a lawyer and another son of Elias, who lived nearby at Pinehurst (**44 Pine Street North**), sold it to Richard Westaway.

The Westaway's owned a furniture store on the west side of John Street, north of the arcade. Around 1909 it relocated to (**94 Walton Street**) where it remained until the 1930's. In the 1891 census, Richard Westaway is listed as a gentleman with three employees. The latter probably included John Westaway who, in the 1901 census, is registered as a cabinetmaker. Before Westaway's purchase several extensions and adjustments had been made to the original frame house. These are now impossible to date or define. It is Westaway who is credited with completely refashioning the building and covering most of the exterior with brick veneer. By the mid 1880's, it had been transformed into a Victorian house typical of the period.

The property remained in the Westaway family until 1919 and then, for the next 57 years, in the Johan A.R. Elliott family.

— — — — — ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL — — — — —



*The gable end has four two-over-two windows, the lower ones with eared lintels of ornately carved stone.*