



WILLIAM STEVENSON HOUSE
circa 1867

Date Designated: April 11, 1988 to By-Law No. 39/88, SCHEDULE B-6

Lot Description: LOT 12 PT LOT 14 PT LOT 16; PT LOT 18 PT

— ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION —

The house is a three bay, two-storey, side hall plan with hip roof, wide eaves and originally an encircling verandah. It has a generous front parlour with marble mantelpiece and originally a dining room across the back, now subdivided, and a kitchen in rear wing with tight corner stair to servant's quarters above. Trim is typical for the period: the door of the four-panel mid-nineteenth century pattern, the front door of six panels accompanied by sidelights and transom harking to a slightly earlier period. Twelve paned windows, tall in proportion subscribing to the Greek Revival, once graced the house.

Architectural significance as representative of late neo-classic vernacular. In the side hall version of the brick three bay, two-storey, hip roofed town house of Port Hope, with the front section of its encircling verandah still in place. Trim, with the familiar cyma reversa and sloped fillet profile in back mould and panel moulds is from the middle period of this long popular shape, here fuller in form than its earlier predecessor. The staircase, with bold turned newel with bun top formed from an enlargement of the nail, and vase-shaped balusters, is early Victorian. The execution of the trim is particular with the inner bead and first plane mitred, the second plane headed horizontally from the quirk or projection, the back mould mitred as is customary with complex profiles.

HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

In 1867, William Stevenson Sr. purchased two acres of land, which included lots 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 of Smith Estate Plan Lot 12 from John Shuter Smith. The lots extended from William Street in the south to Hope Street on the east and Princess Street on the west.

William Stevenson Sr. (1796-1893) was born in County Fermanagh, Ireland and immigrated to Port Hope in 1840 with his wife Mary and son, William Godfrey Stevenson. William G. Stevenson (1833 - 1914) was born in Ireland in 1833.

William G. Stevenson appears in Port Hope business directories by 1871 as a tailor residing on William Street. It is presumed that the house was built shortly after purchase of the lots in 1867 because the house is drawn on the Bird's Eye View of Port Hope of 1874. William Senior sold the property to William G. Stevenson in 1871.

In 1877, William G. Stevenson built the Stevenson Block (*18-22 Queen Street*) in two stages as a speculative venture. His tailoring establishment was located in the northern most unit, which was constructed first, then in 1879, two additional units were constructed and leased to tenants.

In a later directory, William G. Stevenson indicates he owns one half an acre on William Street (*36 William Street*), and he describes himself as a merchant tailor. In 1872, William Sr. also sold some of the original two-acre purchase to James Stevenson. Although the lot numbers were not indicated in the land registry entry, two dwellings appear to the north of 36 William Street on the Bird's Eye View of 1874. One is situated on Princess Street and the other is located on Hope Street.

In 1916, after the death of both William G. and his wife Susanne, the house was transferred to family members. The property remained in the Stevenson family until 1920 when it was sold to John Wright.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL



Of special interest is the front door vestibule of the verandah which provided additional seasonal protection from the elements.