

ROBERT GRAHAM HOUSE
547 WATER STREET

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 547 Water Street, being part of Lot Number 2, south of London Street and east of George Street in the city and County of Peterborough.

SITE AND SETTING: The house is set on the west side of Water street in a neighbourhood of mostly larger residential buildings dating from the mid- to late-nineteenth century.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1856

ARCHITECT/ BUILDER: unknown

SIGNIFICANCE: The house dates from an early period in the city's history and is typical of one storey brick houses which were being built in the 1850s. It retains its original window sash and fenestration, and despite some later changes to the front facade, the original house is clearly visible and largely unchanged. It had from the start a full-height basement containing the kitchen, and although the land around the house has been raised considerably since construction, the top sections of the original basement windows are still in place and visible - even more clearly on the interior.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The house was built by Robert Graham, a merchant, and it remained in the Graham family well into the second decade of the twentieth century.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING FOR THE DESIGNATION BY-LAW: The narrow, east facade of this rectangular, one-storey brick house faces the west side of Water street. The low roof is carried on a plain soffit, now replaced with white painted metal, and a plain fascia. While the east or front facade now has a gable with a triple window and fish-scale shingling, presumably that has replaced an original hipped roof like that in the rear.

Original side chimneys on the south and west facades have been removed below the roofline. A full-width extension to the rear of nearly half the length of the original house was added, probably shortly after the initial construction.

It is clearly visible from the slightly darker color of the later brick.

The solid brick walls are laid in stretcher bond on the front facade and in common bond elsewhere. They are carried on a plinth of three brick courses above a foundation of granite rubble. This foundation must originally have been higher than it now appears.

All the window openings are of the same size and are rectangular, under flat brick voussoirs. The plain trim and lugged sills are wooden. All windows are six-over-six double-hung sashes with very narrow glazing bars.

EAST FACADE

This is the front or street facade. It contains three bays, with two windows and a door in the left or south bay. The door opening has a two-pane transom and simple mouldings. The door itself, with a single large fielded panel, may not be original.

A porch with a shed roof and a foundation and column bases of cut fieldstone, with short tapered square columns, is a later addition to this facade. The shingled gable with its triple window was presumably added at the same time, replacing what was probably the original hipped roof. The gable has a dentillated fascia.

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SOUTH FACADE

There are two widely spaced windows in the original length of the house on this facade, and in the later rear addition a door with a triple-paned transom and simple mouldings with a window to its left. There is a modern frame addition to the rear.

NORTH FACADE

On this facade there are three windows in the original house and one in the latest addition, with a small more recent window to its left.

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Chain of Title

- PATENT 26 January, 1843 The Crown to Louisa Forbes All one-half acre
- B&S #8061 29 August, 1854 reg. 11 September 1854 James and Louisa Wallis to George F. Orde and George Dunford part - one-sixth acre
- B&S #0306 29 August 1854 reg. 12 April 1856 James Wallis et ux to Robert Graham Part one-sixth acre
- B&S #12917 21 February 1859 reg. 22 February 1859 Robert Graham at ux to William Stevenson part one-sixth acre
- B&S #532 2 March 1870 reg. 13 July 1870 William Stevenson et ux to Anne Graham Part one-sixth acre
- B&S #120631 September 1894 reg. 1 September 1894 Anne Graham (widow) to Hampden Burnham Parts S. two-thirds of lot
- Deed #3747 16 March 1898 reg. 18 March 1898 J. Hampden Burnham (unmarried) to Anne Graham Part
- Grant 29 November 1917 reg. 16 December 1917 Wm. G. Morrow & Mildred E. Palmer (formerly Mildred E. Lovekin) surviving executors of Anne Graham (deceased) and Mildred E. Palmer (personally) to John S. and Ella McFarlane Part (See recitals)
- Grant 21 June 1944 reg. 27 June 1944 Eil McFarlane to Marion McFarlane and Laura Moore (joint tenants) Part - Tax Aff. \$1600
- Grant 16 June 1947 reg. 14 July 1947 Marion I. McFarlane and Laura Moore to John M. & Myrtle H. Lowes Part
- Certificate The Treasurer of Ontario certifies that all duty in estate of John M. Lowes dec. has been paid Called pt. of Lot 2, S. London and W. George as in 46091
- Grant 11 July 1963 reg. 26 July 1963 Myrtle Lowes (widow) to T.V. Hart, Charles Elliott, Les Copp, ROSS L. Dobbin, Mary Elliott, William J. Hamilton, P. Melville McCarrell, Gordon C. Miller, Everett Sackville, Charles H. Saunders, & Maxwell Yelland, Trustees of the congregation of George street United Church – Ex'r of est. of Wm. Cochrane Part
- Grant 16 August 1979 reg. 24 August 1979 James W. Gimblett - ex'r of Will of Emily Cochrane, dec'd, to Barbara L. Maloney Part with Subj. to Rt. of Way
- Grant 11 12 81 Maloney, Barbara L. & Maloney, T. Edmond, as party of Third Part to Smeding, William P. Parts, with subj. to rights of way as on plan No. 351182

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- Grant reg. 30 07 82 Smeding, William P., Smeding, Diane, to Wiltshire, Daniel M. & Wiltshire, Carol M. (JT) Part - with and subj. to Rts. of way as on plan in No 351182
- Grant 30 03 84 Wiltshire, Daniel M., and Wiltshire, Carol M., to Houlahan, Michael G.I. and Houlahan, Pauline S. Part - with & subj. to rights of way as shown on plan in No. 351182
- Grant 10 06 88 Houlahan, Michael, G.I. and Houlahan, Pauline Sara to Whiteman, Marguerite June part - with & subject to rights of way as shown in plan 351182
- Grant 92 04 24 Whiteman, Marguerite June to Whittington, Allan Roy, and Wilke, Marion Catherine Part - subject to rights of way as in plan in 351182