

The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18

Description of Cultural Heritage Value and Description of Heritage Attributes
296 William Street, Exeter, Ontario

Description of Property:

Constructed in 1894 for Henry Hooper and Dinah Hooper (nee Elston), the two-storey building is representative of residential late Victorian brick architecture of this area. The property - a former orchard estate home - is located at 296 William Street in the former Town of Exeter, now the Exeter Ward of the Municipality of South Huron.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The home is a good example of the vernacular late Victorian residential style of architecture which is unique to the South Huron area. Typical of this style is an all-brick construction using what was then locally-sourced white brick from the now closed brick yards at Crediton. Unique to this home are decorative frames around each window done in red brick, which bears resemblance to the construction of our town hall, erected around the same time.

The cultural heritage value of the home also lies in its direct historical association with Thomas Pryde, MPP for Huron from 1948 to 1958. Mr. Pryde was a native of Scotland who lived in Toronto and London before going into the monument business in Exeter. He was a two time reeve of Exeter, served in both the Army and Air Force in World War I and in the second as a flight lieutenant with the RCAF. Pryde won the nomination to be a Member of Provincial Parliament in 1948, was the deputy whip of the party for the final three years of his life, and passed away while serving his constituency in 1958. Mr. Pryde owned the home from 1927 to 1947 when he made his run for office.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Key features that contribute to the significance and value of the home and which are to be designated for heritage preservation include:

- The all-white-brick construction of the home, with unique red brick frame accents above each window
- Original Victorian corbel mouldings and basic structure top to bottom.
- Original front entry door with stained glass panel and the stained glass transom.
- Original stained glass above three large first floor windows
- Original stained glass above large front bedroom window
- Four original (4) large sash windows on the north, west (upper and lower) and south sides of the home
- Original Victorian side porch fully in tact, with original carved pillars, newell posts, mouldings