

Heritage Designation Brief



The Dumble-Langton House

554 Reid Street

Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

February 2008

HERITAGE DESIGNATION STATUS SHEET

Street Address:	554 Reid Street
Roll Number:	030040067000000
PIN Number:	281050003
Short Legal Description:	LT 15, SOUTH OF LONDON STREET & WEST OF GEORGE STREET, PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; LT 14 SOUTH OF LONDON STREET & WEST OF GEORGE STREET PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; PT RUBIDGE ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH AS CLOSED BY ORDER R105931, AS IN R163440;
Names of Owners:	Peterborough Housing Corporation
Owners' Mailing Address:	526 MCDONNEL ST Peterborough Ontario K9J 2X8
Owners' Concurrence:	
PACAC Application Review Date:	February 21, 2008
On Site Evaluation Date:	June 8, 2007
Evaluation Category:	A
Evaluators:	Susan Schappert
Heritage Type:	Built Structure
Designation Type:	Ontario Heritage Act – Part IV
Designation Brief Completion Date:	February 20, 2008
PACAC Application Approval Date:	February 21, 2008
Designation Brief Completed by:	Susan Schappert, with research by Martha Ann Kidd
Submission Date:	March 17, 2008
Objections Noted:	
Comments:	

"The short statement of the reason for the designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the Heritage Designation Report constitute the "Reasons for the Designation" required under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Heritage Designation Report is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours."

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Heritage Evaluation Criteria Note:

Category A: The properties in this category are individually outstanding and have the broadest heritage significance in the City by virtue of architectural, historical, and environmental criteria along with overall integrity of design and construction.

"Category A" properties generally hold provincial and/or national significance.



The Dumble-Langton House has excellent cultural heritage value as a private residence and through its connection to Trent University. It is also an excellent example of Gothic Revival residential architecture.

Built in 1868 for Mr. Justice David W. Dumble, the house was patterned after his family home, "Dromore", in Cobourg, Ontario.

The Dumble-Langton House has long been considered one of the finest Victorian Gothic Revival residences in Peterborough, with its numerous gables and dormers trimmed with heavy bargeboard, and its pointed arch windows.

A large building of substantial massing, the house has had several additions and modifications over the years, most significantly with the addition of a new wing in 1879, and alterations made by Ron Thom in the 1960's when the building was purchased by Trent University. The large front porch on the south façade was removed in the 1980s.

David W. Dumble was born in County Wicklow, Ireland, the son of Thomas Dumble, who moved his family to Cobourg, Ontario in 1844. Thomas was a soldier in the Royal Engineers who came to Canada to take part in the surveying of the boundary line between Canada and the State of Maine.





David Dumble was admitted to the bar in 1864, and came to Peterborough later that year to practice law. He went on to become Police Magistrate, and heavily invested in real estate across the City. David and his wife Mary had 10 children, and remained in the house until well after their 50th wedding anniversary in 1912.

In the 1930's, the house was acquired by the City for non-payment of back taxes. In 1964, it was purchased by the newly formed Trent University to become part of Catherine Parr Traill College, Trent's first campus after the departure from Rubidge Hall and prior to the construction of the Nassau Campus in 1967.

Originally a women's campus, Trent University named most of the buildings for historically prominent Peterborough-area women. This building was named 'Langton House' after Anne Langton, an artist and author, who lived in Peterborough while her brother, John Langton, was the representative to the Provincial Legislature for Peterborough and District from 1852-1855.

The house was located on four half-acre lots during the Dumble's residency. Set on the edge of a drumlin that rises to become Smithtown Hill, the building originally had a sweeping view of the sparsely developed town to the southwest. It was surrounded by lawns, gardens, tennis courts, a carriage house and other outbuildings. Today, the Dumble-Langton House is best understood as part of the original Traill College campus, surrounded by imposing 19th century residences that were converted from residential use to meet the needs of Trent University. In 2009 Trent converted Traill College to a graduate studies campus and declared Langton House surplus to its needs. The building was sold to the Peterborough Housing Corporation and has been vacant since that time.



CURRENT OWNER: Trent University

ORIGINAL OWNER: David W. Dumble

ARCHITECT: Unknown

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1868

BUILDER: Original 1868 building: Unknown
 1878 Addition: A. Rutherford

CONTEXT- SITE AND SETTING:

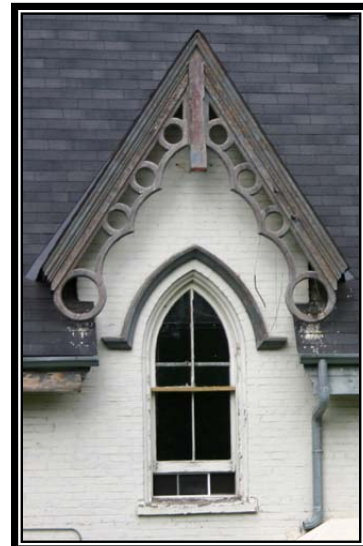
Located on the southeast corner of London Street and Reid Street, the Dumble-Langton House is set in the western-most edge of the original Traill College campus. This imposing Victorian Gothic Revival home is visually prominent from the approach north on Reid Street and is still surrounded by lawns and mature trees.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations and the roof including all facades, entrances, windows, chimneys, and trim, together with construction materials of wood, brick, stone, plaster parging, metal and glazing, their related building techniques and landscape features:

Exterior Elements:

- The exterior painted brick walls with one storey projecting bays;
- The steep hipped gable end roof broken by dormer windows and wall dormers and chimneys;
- The decorative bargeboard trim and drop finials in the gables of the roof and dormers;
- The projecting eaves including fascia and soffits
- The fenestration, including segmental, flat, and arch topped windows, 2/2 sash, 1/1 sash, and fixed panes, paired and triple windows, wooden sills and surrounds
- The second storey niche on the west façade flanked by two windows



- The side entrance porch on the east façade, including square columns, railings and arched trelliage trim
- The two storey porch on the north façade with curved ceiling, square columns and railings
- The decorative wooden label surrounds above arched and flat top windows
- The 2 double stack, and 2 single stack chimneys
- The 1 and 2 storey historic additions on the north façade, and 1 storey addition on the west façade, including brick or stucco-covered walls, fenestration, rooflines, and terrace wall



