



The Cooper House is located at 23 Yonge Street South (formerly 47) in a prominent location on one of the main streets of Elmvale. The house was built in 1893 for Alexander Taylor Cooper, postmaster and prominent local merchant, running a dry goods business called the "Old Reliable" at 9 Queen Street West. Cooper's wife was Mary Ann Craig of Craighurst.

On the death of A.T. Cooper, the house passed to his nephew, Reg Cooper, who also took over the dry goods business. Reg's wife, Bertha lived in the house until her death in 1978. The house was then sold to the United Church of Canada, serving as the manse for St. John's United until 1995. The house was rented for several years, then converted for use as an Adult Day Care Centre in 2000.

This two-story red veneer brick and frame house is in the Queen Anne style. It is an excellent example of this particular style. It was built by Martin Cook, carpenter/builder, in the good manner of others of the same period. It is believed the rear section of the house may have been part of another building, either original or added at a later date, as the "tail" of the house was bricked at a later date than the front portion and was not a new structure when bricked. It is possible that the rear portion of the building was an earlier house of Lafayette MacCrimmon who operated a wagon shop on this property from around 1881 until he sold to Cooper. This 1896 shop stood on the northwest corner of the property right at the sidewalk. This shop stood until after the construction of the Cooper House. Possibly, Cooper salvaged this MacCrimmon House or part of it for a woodshed and later had it brick clad. Whatever its true history, the rear portion of the house is not included in the features for designation which are located in the front section only, more specifically the front, north and south elevations. Of particular interest on the facade are the cedar shake shingles. The bottom rank of shingles consists of two designs: square and half square. The second or middle layer of shingles

is the half cove design; and the third or upper layer is round. Each style is separated by moulding. Also of note on the exterior is the unpainted, uncovered fieldstone foundation.

A delightful feature of the home is the arrangement of the windows on the front elevation. The ground floor parlour window is a bay window executed in brick. The master bedroom, directly above, projects out above the bay window with brick supports on either side. There is a small third storey oriel window in the attic projecting above the master bedroom. The placement of these windows shows a deliberate intent to be eye pleasing.

The interior of the ground floor and upper floors in the front portion of the house have been preserved in near original condition, including the woodwork, stained and etched glass. Originally, there were two parlours: the front parlour and the back parlour. (At present, this is one room.) Each parlour had its own fireplace and there were sliding doors separating these two rooms. The back parlour was used as an every-day room. The bay window in the back parlour offered a cozy nook for the lady of the house to sit to read, sew or just watch the comings and goings of the street.

Designated Features

The architectural features worthy of designation in the front portion of the house are:

Exterior Features

- Unobstructed view of the front, north side and south side elevations;
- Unpainted red brick veneer and detail in the exterior brick work, including a brick sill;
- Frame construction with decorative shingles on the upper storey and attic;
- Exterior window trim with neo-classic detailing in a Doric style;
- Oriel window on the north elevation built of frame construction with shingled exterior;
- Wrap around porch built with double columns in the Doric style;
- Original front vestibule including etched glass in the doors;
- Stained glass windows in front door, parlour bay windows and window in dining room;
- Picture window in the nook at the top of the staircase, including the pediment moulding on the exterior;
- The frame construction of the upper floors are three layers of decorative shingles;
- The frieze board at top of wall with dentil detailing;

- The rafter tails, cut in a decorative fashion, only partly covered by the fascia which leave the bottom of the rafters and the soffits exposed.

Interior details

- Central hall: woodwork including front door, floors, staircase (stairs, newel posts, spindles and banister) trim and baseboard;
- Parlour: wood mouldings, double pocket door, bay windows with stained glass;
- Dining room: floor, wood mouldings, doors and stained glass;
- Nook at top of staircase with picture window;
- Master bedroom, doors, woodwork and fireplace;
- Two side bedrooms, wood mouldings, trim and transom windows.