

November 21, 2024

Cowan House – 39 Athol Street West Working Group Report (REF HTG-24-54)

The Working Group reviewed the wording for the plaque to commemorate the Cowan House and proposes the following:

“Once located at 39 Athol Street West, Cowan House was a two-storey Georgian style with Italianate elements home. The home built around 1858 for Elizabeth and Walter J. Sutton and in 1868 was sold to Susan Cowan who lived in the home with her husband William F. Cowan and son Frederick. William, along with his elder brother John both served as mayors of Oshawa, as well as trustees for the children’s shelter, Oshawa General Hospital, the Board of Education, and Public Library. The Cowan family became involved in many different notable Oshawa businesses such as the Cedar Dale Works and the Ontario Malleable Iron Company. In 1920, Cowan House was donated to the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto by Frederick W. Cowan and his wife Lily. Prior to its demolition in 2022, Cowan House served the administrative needs of St. George’s Parish.”

The Working Group would to note the following items:

1. Source of plaque funding; is the developer, Heritage Oshawa or the city funding this.
2. Previous Heritage Oshawa meetings discussed adding a “relief” of the building to the plaque, however this request was not part of any motion This “relief” would be similar to the plaque installed at the former Waren Mill building on King at McMillian (*see below*)
3. As ground has yet to be broken for this development, there seems to be time to firm up details as noted above so a timeline would be helpful.

Recommendation:

That the report from the Cowan House – 39 Athol Street West Working Group Report be received for information

Warren Mill Plaque

