

## STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

ADDRESS: 11151 Keele Street

Concession 3, Lot 28

ROLL: 1928 00021490000 0000

2 storey, Georgian/Regency stone house with granite fieldstone, built circa 1856-1859

### OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 11151 Keele Street meets the criteria set out by the *Ontario Heritage Act* under Province of Ontario Regulation 9/06 for the categories of design/physical, historical/associative and contextual value.

Name: Devlin/Cook House

Date Built: circa 1852~1859

Address: 11151 Keele Street, Concession 3, Lot 28, West Half

Location: west side of Keele Street, south of Peak Point Boulevard, north of Teston Road, adjacent to North Maple Park

Condition: The house is in good physical condition

### OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as the Devlin/Cook House meets the criteria set out by the Province of Ontario Regulation 9/06 under *Ontario Heritage Act* for the categories of design/physical, historical/associative and contextual value.

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The property is associated with two early prominent settler families, Devlin and Cook, from the 1850's to the 1970's.

The Devlin family were Irish and Methodist and likely arrived in the late 1820's or early 1830's. John Devlin (occasionally spelled as "Develin") and his wife Ann Beatty came over with their daughter and 5 sons. Although John Devlin Sr and Ann would have settled down eventually in Tecumseth County, three of their sons – John (born 1812), William (1815) and Hugh (1820) – moved south to Vaughan Township.

William may have spent some time in Toronto, learning to become a lawyer in the 1830's. In 1840, he married Eleanor (Ellen) James from Toronto and they briefly moved from Toronto to Whitby, Oshawa and Richmond Hill as attested by the birthplaces of their children. By 1851 William Devlin and family were living in Vaughan, as identified in the 1851 census.

In 1856, William received the crown patent for Concession 3, Lot 28 and by the 1861 census it is noted that property already contains a 2-storey stone house. This is the house that still stands today, and it is represented on the 1860 Tremaine Map as well. Historic research indicates it may have been built as early as 1852, but that cannot yet be confirmed. However, as the family was in Vaughan by 1851, like other families during this period, they may have started working and occupying the land before formally receiving the Crown patent.

There is some possibility that Henry Burton may have also been involved with the construction of this house – he is said to have built 50 houses in the area and the construction of stones is similar to other examples in Vaughan. However, the Devlin/Cook House differs in that it was originally constructed as a 2 storey house, whilst most others built around that time were built as 1-1/2 storeys. Then again, this house may have been built larger because there were already 7 children and the extra room would have been a necessity.

Although William Devlin represented his occupation on the 1861 census as a farmer, the Tremaine Map and early references in the York Herald also point to his occupation as a Justice of the Peace. There are several references to his work hearing cases through the 1860's, 1870's and into the 1880's, presenting petitions on behalf of schools or indigent persons requesting assistance. We also know that the Devlins donated a small portion of land on the north edge of their property line to School Trustees to create Hope School.

As William and Ellen Devlin grew older, they are referenced as living directly in Maple and the Ontario Land Titles indicate that by May 1878, they sold the land to George J. Cook and his wife Jane (nee Denton). William Devlin died in 1886 in Maple and Ellen Devlin died in 1890 also in Maple.

George J. Cook was the son of Thomas Cook, who arrived in Vaughan Township in 1833; he and his brother purchased Lots 16 and 17, Concession 2, near what was to become the settlement of Carrville. The Cook Bros maintained a flour mill and built a new lumbermill. In addition to these endeavours, Thomas Cook began a small store and post office on Lot 17, Concession 2.

When George J. Cook married Jane Denton in 1876, he was referred to as a “merchant of Carrville”, but by the time their first son was born (William Thomas Cook) in 1878, they were living on Lot 28, Concession 3. They had another son (Heber D Cook) born almost 5 years later, and both brothers eventually took over the farming business on lots 28 and 29, Concession 3. The Cook family remained on the farm and lived in the 2-storey stone house until 1959, when Doris (nee Cook) & Norman Payne sold the property.

Both the Devlin and the Cook families were known for their deep involvement with the local community including the donation of land for the school and serving on local school boards, their involvement in the establishment of the Maple Methodist Cemetery, and establishment of Methodist churches in the areas of Hope, Maple, Patterson and Carrville. The women of the family were known in part for their work in founding the local Maple Women's Institute and Doris Payne was significantly involved in the documentation of Vaughan's 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement.

In the 1960's and 70's, the character of the lands surrounding the stone house on Lot 28 changed significantly as the lands were divided up and sold to various interests. Although the stone house remained, a significant portion of the farming area to the east was given over to sand and gravel extraction companies.

In 1974, the lands containing the house were purchased by the Guglielmi family. Mr. Guglielmi carefully renovated the interior of the house, to ensure a sympathetic rebuild using custom materials while updating for late 20<sup>th</sup> century comfort. The exterior walls and original footprint are conserved as well as one interior fireplace, one interior staircase and the wooden trim, baseboard and railings.

In the late 1990's, the City of Vaughan began the planning of North Maple Regional Park with the acquisitions of lands in Concession 3, between Lots 26-30. The purchase of 11151 Keele Street from the Guglielmi family was finalized in 2003, and the property subsequently became the home of the Vaughan Soccer Club.

### **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

As it stands today, the exterior of the house at 11151 Keele Street is where the surviving cultural heritage elements are still evident. The original house was built as a 2 storey L-shaped vernacular Georgian house using local field stone (not a 1-1/2 storey house as some other surviving stone houses from the same period). The L-shape plan is created by a 2-storey main building with a on1-storey "tail" built perpendicular along the north and east elevations. Due to the seamless construction along the north wall, it is likely it was constructed at the same time as the rest of the house. The wall thicknesses vary from thirty-six (36) to twenty (20) inches thick.

The stones for the house are primarily sourced from local fields (polychromatic granite), with the squared stones located along the west elevation (fronting onto Keele Street) and south elevation. The rest of the walls include more naturally shaped stone. The west facing elevation is also built in a typical 3-bay symmetrical style.

Aside from the west elevation, the locations of other window openings are not symmetrical in the north and south elevations, but as they are located, they are directly located over each other, typical of the Georgian style. The windows are topped with trapezoidal voussoirs of flat arches over the windows made from the same stone as the rest of the house.

During the 1980's, the owners did a massive renovation of the house which include:

- Replacement of all windows with existing, wooden sympathetic windows currently in place
- Previous additions were removed, and a new 2-storey addition clad in board and batten was constructed
- Some stone along the east elevation was removed to create an exit of sliding patio doors
- An original window on the south elevation was filled with stones (presumably on the 1-storey tail)
- The existing porch and balconies were built

### **CONTEXTUAL ELEMENTS**

The subject lands maintain contextual heritage value through location and setback of the building. The house remains in its original location and is a visible reminder of 19<sup>th</sup> century European settlement of Vaughan Township and its rural history.

The existing landscape is a combination of historical and contemporary influences that speaks to the ongoing ownership and the contributions of previous landowners. Several trees, deciduous and coniferous, are visible on the 1954 aerial map and were maintained and replaced by the family Guglielmi during the 1980's: a mix of both are still visible on site, particularly along the driveway and the north side of the property.

## **SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE**

### **Associative Value**

- ❑ The property has associative value with the Devlin and Cook families of Vaughan, early settler families from Ireland who came to the Township during the 1820's and 1830's. Both families are known for their significant contributions to the history of the Township.
- ❑ It also has an associative link to Henry Burton, a well-known local mason who is known for building at least 50 farmhouses in Vaughan, only a few of which still remain.

### **Physical/Design Value**

- ❑ The building is a rare surviving example of a 2-storey field stone house in Vaughan.
- ❑ The house is constructed as a 2-storey L-shaped vernacular Georgian house using local field stone.
- ❑ The varying wall thickness from thirty-six (36) to twenty (20) inches thick provides insight into the original construction of the house and the necessity of incorporating local materials into the design.
- ❑ The stones for the house are sourced from local fields (polychromatic granite): squared stones located along the west elevation (fronting onto Keele Street) and south elevation, and more naturally shaped stone on the north and east elevations.
- ❑ The west facing elevation is built in a typical 3-bay symmetrical style with a central door and sidelights.
- ❑ The windows in the stone walls are topped with trapezoidal voussoirs of flat arches made from the same stone as the rest of the house.

### **Contextual Value**

- ❑ The setback and location of the house, facing onto Keele Street, is directly related to the layout of the property in the 1850's and serves as a visible reminder of 19th century European settlement of Vaughan Township and its rural streetscape
- ❑ The existing landscape of deciduous and coniferous trees represents a cultural landscape forming from the care of its landowners, particularly along the driveway to the house and to the north side of the house, which are visible in the 1954 aerial photos.

### **Bibliography and Resources**

Vaughan Archives

The Liberal Newspaper Archives

City of Vaughan Facility and Parks files

2017 Facilities Report Condition – 11151 Keele Street

2023 CHIA Draft Report – 11151 Keele Street

Memo from the Guglielmi family (Parks Files)  
Tremaine Maps 1860 & 1878  
Canada Census Records 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881