

# ATTACHMENT 2

## 6181 MAJOR MACKENZIE

### STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

#### OVERVIEW

**Building Name:** Neil McGillivray House

**Location:** Con 9, Lot 20

**Style:** Georgian

**Construction type:** brick; wraparound verandah

**Community:** Kleinburg

**Building Date:** 1865

#### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This 1-1/2 storey Georgian style brick structure features a 3 bay front façade, a front door with transom surrounds, and a window on either side of the door. The cladding of the house is bi-colour brick which creates a stylized cross entablature across the front and rear façade at the roofline. It also features light coloured brick quoining on the exterior corners of the house. The windows openings on the side elevations also contribute to the symmetry typical of the Georgian style and appear to still contain contributing heritage value. Two surviving chimneys further contribute to the symmetry of house's form.

#### ATTRIBUTES

- 1 ½ storey built form in Classic Revival style
- Front door with transom surrounds
- Windows on either side of the front door with 6/6 pattern
- Windows on the side, 2 on each second level
- Light brick accents, particularly the cross pattern along the top of the front elevation, at the roof line
- Light brick quoining at each corner of the house
- 2 chimneys at either end of the roofline

#### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Neil McGillivray arrived in 1830 from the Isle of Mull, Scotland with his wife Flora Beaton. While he originally purchased land in King Township, he would later purchase Lot 20, Concession 9 around 1836 for 100 British pounds. The property had a log house on 20 acres of cleared land at the time. As the property was originally a Clergy Reserve, it took until 1845 to clear his title to the land. As a result, he was entitled to vote. The 9-room home was built in 1865, at a cost of \$1000. The materials of the house cost approximately \$750, and the carpenter was paid \$250.

Neil McGillivray would become involved in the development of the community. Not only was he an active voter, but he also became involved in local politics, and was appointed Pathmaster for many years. Later in the century, his sons would also be appointed Pathmaster. In addition to Neil's involvement in politics, he was also involved in the church – and he was on the building committee for St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Concession 7.

The McGillivray family established itself as an active settler family – marrying into the local Lawrie family and continuing to serve in leadership roles within the Presbyterian Church. The Lot 20 farm was passed on to Neil's youngest son William, while first born Neil had a farm on Lot 19. William's son Gordon inherited the farm from his father. Gordon McGillivray was also an active member of the community. He is known for establishing an all-male choir at Knox Presbyterian Church in 1933, which eventually became known as the Gordon McGillivray Male Choir. The choir performed for audiences all over Vaughan Township and the surrounding area,

with practice being held at both the McGillivray's and the church. Due to his involvement in the church, Gordon was honoured for his 30 years as choir leader in 1964. It survived at least until the 1980's.

Although Gordon sold the property to Timothy O'Connor in 1963, the house has remained largely intact and still contains heritage value. McGillivray Road, which originally ran from Rutherford Road up to the two farms, was named after the family. This dwelling was built before the Confederation of Canada in 1867, before the nearby Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway was established in 1868. This house is the surviving representation of lands once owned by Neil McGillivray, an early pioneer of the area. Neil McGillivray and his family were early settlers in the area and this house reflects their success and hard work in the establishment of a homestead. It is here that the merit of the house lies, just as much as in the architectural value.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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