

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

DESCRIPTION

Municipal Address: 11244 Keele Street

Legal Description: Lot 29, Concession 4

Brief description: 1-1/2 storey structure built in the Victorian Gothic Revival styles

OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 11244 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.

Date Built: circa 1870-1880

Location: west side of Keele Street, south of Kirby Road

Condition: good

DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

The subject property at 11244 Keele Street is a one-and-a-half storey residence. The Victorian Style encompasses a range of architectural styles during the reign of Queen Victoria: while the architectural style of the building has been categorized as Victorian, the design also heavily exhibits Gothic revival elements. This is described in greater detail in the 2022 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER, 2022). Characteristics of Gothic Revival style include vergeboard (roof trim), bay windows, and verandas – elements evident at the subject property.

As an example of the Gothic Revival style, the structure displays a good level of craftsmanship. Clad in brick, the use of dichromatic brick adds character to the structure. The window detailing incorporate feature buff brick segmental arch lintels and concrete sills. The gables have decorative vergeboards. There two bay windows: one east-facing and another south-facing. Two covered verandas, with white posts, are present at the south and east elevations. There is also an application of buff brick corner quoins. An addition on the west side of the structure was constructed at a later time from the original structure.

HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

The subject property has had several owners over the years. Located at Lot 29 Concession 4, an 1860 map indicates D. Barker (Daniel Barker) occupying the lot, and there is no residence illustrated on the 1860 map. During this time the Northern Railway is illustrated on the map and is shown west of the location where the structure would be built. In 1866 the property was sold to William Nixon, who sold a small portion of the lot to Joseph Lund in 1870 for the construction of the Hope Methodist Church. The church would have annual oyster suppers and fowl suppers. A map from 1878 indicates that ownership had changed again, and Charles Nixon was owner of the lot.

A map from 1918 indicates that William Thomas owned the property. William Thomas was married to Elizabeth, and they were Methodists. Aemilius Wilson, who would marry William and Elizabeth Thomas' daughter Bessie, also appears on the map during this time. OnLand

Historical Book indicates that the instrument date for the property was 1916 while the registration date was in 1922. This could have been a transitional period for the family.

William Thomas was involved in the community and contributed to the development of Vaughan: he served as a Councillor for Vaughan Township in 1903, and from 1907 to 1909. It was through William Thomas' involvement that a post office was brought to the Hope community, opened on August 13, 1906 – located in the home of William Thomas. Prior, the mail for Hope was brought to Maple, and when Hope residents were visiting Maple they would collect the mail available on behalf of the residents in the Hope community. This helps to showcase that during a time when there was no postal service in the area, a community network was present to help fill the gap. William Thomas' daughter, Bessie Thomas, went on to become Postmistress for five years. After serving the community for a number of years, the Post Office was closed on September 30, 1911, when rural mail delivery was established; Jonas Shunk served as the first mailman for rural delivery. The following year in 1912, telephone lines were established on concession 4, which further benefited the community. These changes highlight the progress and development of Vaughan. After many years of being part of the Thomas family, property was sold in 1986 to Keltree Developments Inc (according to the 2022 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report).

CONTEXTUAL VALUE

The subject property at 11244 Keele structure and lot are significant in establishing and maintaining the cultural heritage aesthetic and the history of the mid-19th century history of Vaughan. The lot includes a long drive lined with mature trees, which is reflective of historic farm properties. Located on the eastern half Lot 29 Concession 4, the property holds contextual value as a longstanding feature, historically linked to its surroundings. The transition from a largely rural agricultural area to the development of residential subdivisions in the northeast and south began in the early 2000's. Although there have been changes in the surrounding area over the years, the subject property continues its historical links to its surroundings through the active agricultural fields surrounding it. In addition, William Thomas' use of the structure as the Hope Post Office created the opportunity for improved communication and connectivity for the community. It is here that the merit of the structure lies, just as much as in the architectural value.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Physical/Design Value

- ☐ Dichromatic brick
- ☐ Two bay windows – east and south facing elevations
- ☐ Arched windows
- ☐ Buff brick corner quoins
- ☐ Covered verandas
- ☐ Eye-brow lintels
- ☐ Decorative vergeboards
- ☐ Low hipped roof

Historical/Associative Value

- ☐ home of William Thomas, who served as Councillor for Vaughan Township in 1903, and from 1907 to 1909
- ☐ location of first Post Office (within the house) between 1906-1911
- ☐ the property maintained agricultural links since 1860, with continued agricultural practices on surrounding lands

Contextual Value

- ☐ the subject property established and still maintains the cultural heritage aesthetic of the mid-19th century architecture in Vaughan
- ☐ the subject property reflects some of the early settler affluence through detailed architectural flourishes and siting on the property
- ☐ the subject property is contextually linked to Vaughan's agricultural history, and the evolution of the community development in the 19th and 20th century

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