

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

ADDRESS: 5670 Steeles Ave. W

LEGAL: Lot 1, Concession 8

OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 5670 Steeles Ave. W meets the criteria set out by the *Ontario Heritage Act* under Province of Ontario Regulation 9/06 for the categories of historical/associative, design/physical and contextual value.

Date Built: 1850-1870

Style: Georgian

Condition: Very good

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The structure located at 5670 Steeles Avenue West is estimated to have been built sometime between 1850 and 1870. The 2-storey structure is representative of the Georgian style. The characteristics of the Georgian style include symmetry, classical elements, and simplicity. Materials that are used include brick, stone, and wood. These elements can be seen at the subject property.

Early descriptions of the structure state that the building was constructed using red brick and had patterned brick corners. The windows had twelve panes and shutters. The small entrance porch is trimmed with pleasing fretwork. By 1975, changes were made to the structure when the McKinnon family took ownership of the property: white stucco was added to cover the red brick, a columned verandah was added to the front, and a new entrance was added to the side of the building. While there is not much information available about the other buildings on the lot when discussing the changes that occurred during the owners of the McKinnon family, archival documents describe the property as having very attractive buildings.

HISTORICAL/ASSOCIATIVE VALUE:

There is a combination of factors that contribute to the historical significance of the subject property. Located in the Woodbridge community on Lot 1, Concession 8, maps from 1860 and 1878 indicate that the owner was William Hartman, who served as Deputy Reeve in 1868 and 1869. His role as a Reeve highlights his contribution to the development of Vaughan. William Hartman also participated in community events. An 1861 *Liberal* newspaper article which discussed the Agricultural fair, includes him as participant, where he received second place for his submission of twelve cooking apples. The article also reveals that there were over 600 entries, and remarks that it was one of the best shows ever held in Vaughan. In addition, a *York Herald* from 1962 also includes him as a participant at Vaughan Agricultural Society's Fall Show, held in October 1862, where he entered in the fruits and vegetables category and placed first for field carrots. His participation not only showcases what he was producing on his farm, but also highlights events that were occurring within Vaughan, as well as signify what was of interest to the residents of Vaughan during the time-period.

The property was sold to Issac Kellam in 1898. He lived on the property with his wife, Sarah Nichol, and their nine children: Albert, Thomas W. Boyle, Isaac Jr., Rachel, James, Jessie, Mary, John, and Elgin. While Issac Kellam's name appears on the 1918 map, an archival source indicates that his second son, Thomas W. Boyle, had also moved to his father's farm sometime in 1918. During this time period the western portion of Lot 1 was divided in half, each consisting of 50 acres. The western section of the west half belonged to Thomas' brother James who later sold it to William. G. Armstrong. Thomas W. Boyle (d. 1944) lived on the farm with his wife Sarah Robinson. Together they had three children: Oscar, Jesse, John. The operations of the farm consisted of mix farming. This involved growing grain and corn, and also selling milk to Toronto. Years later, Oscar, who was the only surviving child of Thomas and Sarah, took over the farm

when his father retired. Oscar and his wife Olive Rice operated the farm from 1927 to 1934, while Thomas moved to a brick house at 7826 Kipling (which at the time was known as Eighth Avenue).

By 1953 the property was purchased by Alfred McKinnon. The McKinnon family household consisted of Alfred McKinnon and his wife Ann Cameron, and their three children Joanne, Gary, and Jane. During the McKinnon family ownership, the main house had some alterations. The McKinnons ran a pony farm and bred Shetland ponies. Changes were also occurring in different parts of the lot during this time. The Burwick Tweedsmuir resource notes that parts of the lot have been expropriated over the years including Hydro in 1957, Department of Highways in 1958, and the Canadian National Railway in 1959.

CONTEXTUAL ELEMENTS

The subject property located at 5670 Steeles is historically linked to its surrounding and is a longstanding feature. Located on the north side of Steeles Avenue west, the structure is setback on the lot, with a driveway leading up to the property. This element reflects the traces of the farming economy during the 19th and early 20th century farm cultural landscape. While the surrounding area has transitioned to become more commercial and industrial, the subject property highlights the rural and agricultural past of the surrounding area. This building reflects the hard work and contributions of the farming families that lived on the property. These include members from Hartman, Kellam, and McKinnon families. It is here that the merit of the house lies, just as much as in the architectural value.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Architectural Attributes

- 2-storey Georgian structure

Historical Attributes

- Owned by William Hartman, who served as Deputy Reeve for Vaughan and published award-winning farmer
- Farm operations consisting of growing grain and corn, selling milk to Toronto, and pony farm

Contextual Attributes

- The subject property is linked to the site and the surrounding connecting lot
- The structure is setback from the main road, and is set amongst a treed landscape area

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES

City of Vaughan Archives

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