

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

ADDRESS: 8733 Keele Street

LEGAL: Lot 12, Concession 3

OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 8733 Keele Street 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.

Name: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Parsonage

Date Built: 1887

Style: Victorian/Gothic Revival

Condition: Good

ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

The subject property located at 8733 Keele Street consists of a 2-storey structure that was previously the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Parsonage. While the Listing of Significant Heritage Structures information page has the date of construction as 1860, further research has established that the brick structure was constructed in 1887.

The structure is a representation of Victorian architecture with Gothic Revival elements. Victorian architecture refers to the period of time during the reign of Queen Victoria and is known to incorporate elements from other architectural styles including Italianate, Romanesque, Gothic Revival, Arts and Crafts, and Queen Anne Revival. Victorian architecture in Ontario was primarily used in residential architecture but also some commercial buildings. Characteristics of Victorian architecture include ornamentation, steep roofs, bay windows, wrap-around porches, and decorative columns. Materials used include brick, stone, and wood as seen at 8733 Keele Street.

The former parsonage is a red brick structure with light-coloured brick accents on the eyebrow lintels and the quoins. The contrasting of the light and dark coloured bricks adds character to the structure. The front elevation showcases the main entrance and faces onto Keele Street. The porch leading to the main entrance has ornamental columns and simple railings. To the right of the entrance is a bay window, which has iron cresting on its roof. The right section of the front elevation projects forward slightly, while the section containing the entrance doorway is setback. The south facing elevation has a bay window on the main level, with a window directly above on the second level. This elevation also contains a brick chimney clad in light-coloured brick. The north facing elevation has similar details, with a bay window on the main level and a window directly above on the second level. This section of the structure also has a side entrance. Looking at upper section of the structure, the gables contain decorative vergeboards. The house cost \$2,959.65 to build, and all the details of the structure work together to serve as a showcase of good craftsmanship.

A *York Times* article from August 11, 1987, discusses the history of the former parsonage, and

the renovation it had undergone. During the renovation process the name of Reverend Alex McLaughlin, who had lived in the home when he served as the Lutheran church pastor, was found underneath the original plaster. The discovered signature also had an accompanying date of Sunday August 21, 1887. When discussing the renovations to former parsonage, a 1986 *York Times* article mentions that the only reproductions that had been done were the white gingerbread on the porch and gables, along with the doors and windows. This helps to indicate that the renovations were done to maintain the historic integrity of building.

HISTORICAL/ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

The subject property located at 8733 Keele Street has a long connection to the Keffer family. In 1806 Jacob Keffer, his brother Michael Keffer—arrived in Vaughan Township from Sommerset, Pennsylvania. This was also the same year Jacob Keffer acquired lot 12 of concession 3, and would go on to be a contributor to the forming of the Lutheran congregation within the Sherwood community in Vaughan. Jacob Keffer deeded a portion of the western half of lot 12 to the trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for church buildings and cemetery on August 10th, 1811. There was a period of time where the church was without a pastor and Jacob Keffer served as a lay reader who educated the children in the catechism. The lots association to Jacob Keffer highlights both his contribution to the community, and also the importance of religion.

The initial building that served as the parsonage was constructed in 1852, and was a small structure built with wood. The parsonage served as the home for the pastor for the nearby Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. The brick iteration of the church still stands today and is located at 8795 Keele Street, which is situated north of the parsonage. After several years funds were raised for the creation of a new parsonage. In 1887 a building committee was formed for the parsonage, which included: J. A. Line, S. C. Snider, H. Keffer, M. Oster, N. Reaman, G. Cooper, C. White, D. Snider, A. Fenwick, and I. Keffer. Nathaniel Shunk would serve as the builder for the parsonage.

In 1887 the new brick parsonage was constructed just north of the original wooden parsonage, which cost \$2,959.65 to build. The brick building is still standing at its location at 8733 Keele Street, while the first parsonage structure was later demolished. Not only did the parsonage serve as the residence to the pastor, it also was the location where events were held. For instance, when there was a centennial celebration for the Zion church in 1906, the event was held on the grounds of the parsonage. This event not only signifies the long history of the church, but also the parsonages connecting role in bringing the community together. The parsonage was later sold in 1950, when the pastor became based in Unionville.

A 1987 *York Times* article discussed the history and renovations that were being undergone at the time. It was revealed that when the original plaster and drywall was removed, the name of Reverend Alex McLaughlin was written along with the date “Sunday August 21, 1887. The article not only gives insight into process of the change that was occurring to the structure, but also helps to confirm the pastor that had previously been living in the home. The inclusion the signature and date could be looked at as a way to commemorate his time living in the home, and his role as pastor to the church.

Examining the land ownership over the years also highlights the long connection to Keffer family. A map from 1860 indicates Peter Keffer (son of Jacob Keffer) on lot 12 of concession 3. By 1878 the lot had been divided into different sections. Fred (Frederick) Keffer appears on the eastern portion of the lot, while Henry Keffer and Issac Keffer appear on the west half of lot 12. Years later the east half of the lot was sold in 1959 by Wilfred Keffer, while the west half was sold following the death of Lawrence Keffer in 1962. This indicates that while sectioned into different portions, the lot still remained within the Keffer family for many years.

The link between the structure and the Keffer family remained even after the parsonage was sold. A 1986 article from the *York Times* which discussed the history of the parsonage, also included that the ancestors of the Keffer family would still visit the building. This showcases the special connection the building maintained with the Keffer family, and the lasting impact of historic structures. The existence of the structure is tied to both a significant family of Vaughan, and also allows for an understanding of the history, development, and lifestyle of Vaughan.

CONTEXTUAL VALUE

8733 Keele Street is historically linked to its setting, and is a longstanding feature in the area. Located on the east side of Keele Street, the structure is visible from the road. The structure has previously functioned as a living space for the pastor of the church, and also served as the location where church related events were held. While the area surrounding former parsonage has become industrial over the years, the property is a representation of the lands once owned by the Keffer family, who worked hard to establish a homestead. The Keffer's contribution of land for the purposes of the church and related buildings helped to shape the religious and social fabric of the area, and also created a sense of community throughout the years. It is here that the merit of the structure lies, just as much as the architectural value.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

Architectural Value

- 2-storey Victorian/Gothic Revival building
- Dichromatic brick: red brick, with lighter colour accent brick
- Steep roof
- Bay windows
- Iron cresting
- Eyebrow lintels
- Decorative vergeboards
- Decorative porch posts

Historical Value

- Served as the parsonage for the neighbouring Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Lot is associated with Keffer family, who were early settlers from Sommerset, Pennsylvania
- Jacob Keffer contributed to the establishing of the Lutheran church within the Sherwood community of Vaughan, and served as a lay reader who taught the children in the catechism

Contextual Value

- Structure is visually and historically linked to the Lot and Concession it was built upon

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