

# STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

## DESCRIPTION

Municipal Address: 10090 Huntington Rd.

Legal Description: PT LOT 27 CON 10 VAUGHAN AS IN R649453 EXCEPT VA58856; S/T VA80957 VAUGHAN

Brief description: Gothic Revival, brick

## OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 10090 Huntington Rd. 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:

Date Built: ca.1875

Location: West side of Huntington Rd., North of Nashville Rd. in Kleinburg

Condition: Fair

## DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

The building on the subject land resembles a Gothic Revival architectural style with the feeling and influence of an Ontario Farmhouse. This style was particularly prominent in Ontario from 1830-1900, and we see a great variety of features, forms, and building elements from the Gothic period used on the building<sup>1</sup>.

The building features a red brick façade, with a steeply pitched roof and peaked gables that are lined with decorative bargeboard. There are windows arched under the peaked gables varying from 1 over 1 to 4 over 4 sash style. A bay window is featured to the right of the front door, with drip mould and decorative wood embellishment supporting the corner points<sup>2</sup>. The front door is disguised by the later addition of an enclosed porch with siding and a slanted roof.

## HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL

The general area surrounding the subject property does not have any documented potential for archaeological findings, although potential does surround the outskirts of the property.<sup>3</sup>

### The Wreggitts

The patent land for E ½ 100 acres at Pt Lot 27 Con 10 was given to the Canada Company<sup>4</sup> in August 1831. James Wreggitt of Yorkshire, England, purchased the property in 1836. He was first married in 1814 to Mary Ward, of the same place. It is unknown what happened, but she died, and he married his second wife, Elizabeth Lock in 1820, also of the same place. Sometime

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<sup>1</sup> Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the present, John Blumenson, 1989 p.36

<sup>2</sup> Ontario Architectural Style Guide, HPI Nomination Team, University of Waterloo, January 2009

<sup>3</sup> Arc-GIS, City of Vaughan

<sup>4</sup> Canada Company, brainchild of John GALT, established in late 1824 and chartered in 1825 as a land and COLONIZATION COMPANY in Upper Canada. In 1826 the company purchased from the government about 2.5 million acres (1 million ha) of land for \$295 000. Roughly half lay in the Huron Tract (western Ontario) and the rest consisted of scattered crown reserves. The payments, spread over 16 years, went directly to the executive branch of the Upper Canada government, to the bitter resentment of Reformers in the elected assembly, who also charged that the company failed to provide promised improvements in its structure and treated immigrants dictatorially.

between 1825 and 1836 they emigrated to Canada<sup>5</sup>. James had his first two children, George, and Richard, with his first wife Mary. Records indicate that James Wreggitt died in 1850<sup>6</sup>.

The 1851 map of Vaughan indicates 'Geo. Pickett'<sup>7</sup> as being on the North half of the Wreggitt property. We know that James' sons George and Richard received half the property each, 50 acres, and it has also been noted that in several documents, including the land titles themselves, the last name 'Wreggitt' has been misspelled many times. The 1860 Tremaine Map shows "Estate of Late James Wreggit"<sup>8</sup> (see attachment 3).

The City of Vaughan's detailed Tax Assessment records do not start until 1897, but there are minimal assessment records and Voter's Lists available between 1850-1936 on microfilm. These records help to verify who was living on the property as well as the assessed value of the property. These records indicate that James' son, George Wreggitt, had been living and working on the farm<sup>9</sup> since the late 1850's, and the Wreggitt property value was \$2600. The 1861 Census of Canada indicates that the Wreggitt family were living in a one-storey log house, and that it was built by James Wreggitt and his sons.

George Wreggitt was the first brother to sell his NE ¼ of the 50 acres in 1868. The grantee was John C Kurtz. A few years later, in 1876, Richard Wreggitt (George's brother and non-resident) also sold his S ½ of the E ½ 50 acres to John C Kurtz, garnering him the full 100 acres.

### **John Culham Kurtz**

John Culham Kurtz was born near Richmond Hill in 1830. He married Sarah Calham/Culham of Toronto in 1871, and together they had a family of 6 children<sup>10</sup>. John was a farmer and after acquiring the first portion of his land from George Wreggitt he had a tenant name John P Watson for a short while. It is likely that John was responsible for building the current dwelling between 1871 and 1875 (see attachment 4) to meet the needs of his growing family, as the house is in the section of land acquired from George Wreggitt.

Kurtz was an enthusiastic politician who was an ardent supporter of the temperance cause (he was patiently awaiting the enactment of the Scott Act of 1878)<sup>11</sup>. According to an account by George F East, and sent in by Dorothy Watson in 1968, the railway had recently come into town and the post office needed a name and John Kurtz was amongst several men who went along with and decided on the name 'Nashville', named after the Scott family, who came from Nashville, Tennessee<sup>12</sup>. Sadly, curiosity got the best of Kurtz on May 15, 1893, as he got too close to "the big saw and was cut in half, right through his heart according to the report in the Bolton Enterprise. A gruesome sight"<sup>13</sup> – he was 61. This is also verified through his death certificate record<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> James Wriggott (1791-1850); <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wriggott-1>

<sup>6</sup> 1851 Personal Census of Canada

<sup>7</sup> 1851 Map of Vaughan Township

<sup>8</sup> 1860 Tremaine Map of Vaughan Township

<sup>9</sup> RG 2/V/3 1850-1936 Tax Assessments, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>10</sup> Pg.345, John C. Kurtz, Township of Vaughan, *History of Toronto, and the County of York, 1885*

<sup>11</sup> The Canada Temperance Act (Scott Act) of 1878 gave local governments the "local option" to ban the sale of alcohol.; <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/temperance-movement>

<sup>12</sup> Letter, Gordon F East to Gordon McGillvray, Victoria, B.C., 1968

<sup>13</sup> MG 66, City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>14</sup> "Death by 'falling on a circular saw' "; Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1949 for John Catham Kurtz; [ancestry.ca](http://ancestry.ca)

Kurtz's eldest son, Edwin, became the 'man' of the house, following the death of his father, as he was the eldest son living on the property. He is noted as being a farmer by profession since at least the age of 18 according to the 1891 Census of Canada and he is listed on the 1898 Voter's List, giving us insight that he is living and working on the property<sup>15</sup>. Edwin James Kurtz became the sole owner of the property in 1906 after his siblings quit their claim on their share of the property. Coincidentally, he was married in that same year.

### **The Irwins**

For over half a century various members of the Irwin family retained ownership of the subject property. William Irwin was born to George Erwin and Esther Wright on February 28, 1838, in Millington, York, England.<sup>16</sup> He immigrated to Canada, and his last name from then on was spelled Irwin. He married Ann Dixon on March 28, 1867, in Markham, Ontario.<sup>17</sup> He purchased the subject property in 1907 and is the freeholder of the property, but, according to the 1911 farmer's directory, Emrys Wright Irwin (his son) is the tenant on the property<sup>18</sup>.

Emrys and his wife Rose Ella Abernethy rented the farm from William until his death in 1925, to when the title to the property likely became his. From that point they continued to maintain and work the farm until Emrys' death in 1950. At this point, Arthur and Gordon, their children, became title owners to the property, with Gordon granting his portion of the property to Arthur in 1951. The property stayed within the Irwin family for over half a century, until 1963, when Arthur Wright Irwin and his wife Hilda Patricia Biggs<sup>19</sup> sold the property.

### **CONTEXTUAL VALUE**

The subject property is linked to Vaughan's settler and agricultural history, as it had been solely a residence and farm for the entirety of its being. From initial settlement and land clearing to first dwellings such as the log cabin and then the subject building, this property reflects early mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century farming and building practices. The resilience and determination of the human spirit to succeed and provide is consistently showcased with each prominent family that resided on this property, including the experience of being an immigrant and starting a new life in a foreign place.

The Site Plan shows a suggested "Designation Boundary" area that is based on the preservation and conservation of the dwelling, the approach driveway and mature trees, as well as an adequate parcel agrarian use land that would maintain the contextual and historical elements of the larger property.

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<sup>15</sup> 1898 Voter's List, Township of Vaughan, City of Vaughan Archives RG 2/v/3

<sup>16</sup> Biography of William Irwin; <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Erwin-2560>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Union Publishing Company's farmers and business directory for the counties of Haliburton, Ontario, Peterborough, Victoria, and York: Union Publishing Co. of Ingersoll, 1911: Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming: Internet Archive

<sup>19</sup> Gravestone of Arthur Wright Irwin and Hilda Patricia Biggs; <https://www.wikitree.com/photo/jpg/Irwin-4790>

## **SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE**

### **Physical/Design Value**

- ☐ Gothic Revival structure clad in red brick.
- ☐ Steeply pitched roof
- ☐ Peaked gables
- ☐ Multiple L-Shape style
- ☐ Bay window with drip mould and wooden embellishment

### **Historical/Associative/Contextual Value**

- ☐ the subject property reflects some of the earliest settler architecture and siting, giving insight into settler practices.
- ☐ the subject property is contextually linked to Vaughan's agricultural history from initial settlement and land clearing to early 19th farming practices.
- ☐ John C Kurtz was an important member of the community through politics and the naming of 'Nashville'.
- ☐ Resilience and determination of the human spirit

### **Contextual Value**

- ☐ Structure is historically linked to the Lot and Concession it was built upon
- ☐ Longstanding ownership by the same family creates a significant historical link to the local community