

**7961 Jane Street**

**ARCHITECTURAL VALUE**

**\*LHC will be sending information regarding the information they would like to be included the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and updated heritage attributes**

**HISTORICAL VALUE**

**Criteria 4.) Direct Association**

When reviewing the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the criteria listed refers to the property and not just the structure(s) located on the site. The legal description of the property is Lot 7, Concession 4, and the designation relates to the entire property, and not the just structure/dwelling. The history of the property that has been outlined in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value, has a direct association to the history of the property, and the owners of the Lot. Members of the Smith family, with particular interest in those associated with Lot 7 of Concession, were important within the community of Edgeley.

***Ontario Heritage Act:***

DESIGNATION OF PROPERTIES BY MUNICIPALITIES

Designation by municipal by-law

29 (1) The council of a municipality may, by by-law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if,

- (a) where criteria for determining whether property is of cultural heritage value or interest have been prescribed, the property meets the prescribed criteria; and
- (b) the designation is made in accordance with the process set out in this section. 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (1); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (1); 2022, c. 21, Sched. 6, s. 4 (1).

Regarding the ownership timeframe and family members who lived in the structure, Menno Smith takes over the farm after his father, Samuel Smith, in 1893. The 1911 Census lists Menno as head of the household, living with his wife Marietta Smith, and children. The names of their children include: Allan Smith, Hazel Smith, and Cecil Smith. Assessment rolls indicate that there was a jump in property value from \$4700 in 1898, to \$6000 in 1910. A jump in property value often indicates that something has been built on the land; which is usually a house. It could then be understood that this is when 7961 Jane Street was built. By the 1921 Census, additional information is provided on the census. Menno Smith is still listed as head of the household, the class of house he is living in is described as a single house, and materials of construction is brick. The household members still include his wife, and three children.

*A History of Vaughan Township Churches* states that Samuel Smith (1838-1893), his son Menno Smith (1868-1948), and Menno's son Allan Smith (1899-1972) were all involved with maintenance of the Edgeley cemetery over the years. This helps to indicate their community involvement. In addition, *A History of Vaughan Township* states that Allan Smith was a trustee for the Edgely cemetery. A newspaper article describes an Edgeley cemetery meeting where Allan Smith is the chairman. The topics of discussion included the tentative plans for the opening a new section of the cemetery if needed in the future, the repainting of the cemetery fence, and the glazing of the

church windows. These meetings and discussions give insight into community life, and the role members of the Smith family contributed to maintaining important elements within their community.

**Criteria 5.) has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture;**

**Expanded information:**

The Smith family were significant to the Edgeley community. John Smith, who was an early Pioneer from Pennsylvania, donated an acre of land on Lot 7, Concession 4, for purpose of a church and cemetery. Built in 1824, the Edgeley Mennonite Church (Edgeley Meeting House) was one of the earliest churches to be built in Vaughan. The resource, *Some of Vaughan's Pictorial Past* by Hugh Cook, states that the church became known as the Smith house since the structure was built by the Smith family, and was located on their land.

There was also a period of time when the church was closed. *A History of Vaughan Township* states, "the church was closed from 1909 to 1915 and then monthly services were held until 1923. After being closed for forty years, it was re-opened for one Sunday, Sept. 2, 1963, to an overflow audience." A 1963 Liberal newspaper article also discusses the reopening and states that, "Edgeley was filled with worshippers and many more were seated in the church yard." The response to the opening allows for an understanding about the significance of the church within the community.

***For criteria 5, "there is no discussion how this Property yields or has the potential to yield information that contributes to a community of culture."***

The church allows for the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture. The Edgeley Mennonite Church represents a way of life, reflection of faith, and a sense of community within Edgeley. Although the church was later moved in 1976 to Black Creek Pioneer Village, it remains an important element to the history of Edgeley.

The inclusion of various members of the Smith family within the Statement of Cultural Heritage was to provide context and insight into both the history of the Edgeley, as well as highlight their involvement and contributions throughout the wider community. This in turn allows for the understanding about Vaughan's development over the years, and the hard work of the Smith family to develop a life in a new location.

***"Regarding the date range associated with the house of 1879-1915;..."***

The examination of Tax Assessment records has shown that the building date of the former Smith House as c.1910. In 1898 the total property value was \$4700. Two other brick buildings had already been built and existed on the property prior to this date. Archival information indicates 7975 Jane Street is estimated to have been built prior to 1878, and 7971 Jane Street is estimated to have been built around 1860's. Both buildings were demolished in the late 1980's.

By 1910 the total property value was \$6000. A jump in value in often indicates something has been built upon a property. **The total actual value of the land continues to appear as \$6000 in 1934.** Moreover, the date of 1910 is also in closer alignment with the building dates that were included in archival documentation (c. 1915), the City of Vaughan's Listing of Significant Heritage Structures

(c.1915), and the 1988 report by Kathryn Anderson; which references a four-square structure built c.1914.

## **CONTEXTUAL VALUE**

### **Criteria 8: physically, visually or historically linked to its surroundings**

The contextual value of the subject property relates to the building's historical link and physical location on the property. Located on the west half of Lot 7, Concession 4 in its original setting, and set back from the road, the structure is a remnant of the Edgeley community. The neighbouring Edgeley cemetery, located at 7981 Jane Street, is another element that remains of the Edgeley community. The land for the cemetery was donated by John Smith in 1824. The Edgeley Mennonite Church (Mennonite Meeting house), that was previously located within Lot 7, was moved to Black Creek Pioneer Village in 1976.

A 1988 report by Kathryn Anderson describes a four-square structure, which at the time had the address 7895 Jane Street; this is believed to be the same structure with the current address of 7961 Jane Street. The report states that it is the only historical building remaining due to the demolition of two other brick structures; 7975 Jane Street and 7971 Jane Street. When commenting on the impact of the demolition, the 1988 report states, "the demolition of these buildings represents a significant loss to the Edgeley community." The inclusion of the comment on the loss of the previous buildings, further highlights the significance of the existing four-square structure.

With the various developments to the area over the years, one of which being the rail yard, the remaining structure serves as a connection to the past and the history of Edgeley. The property historically represents a way of life during the time period it was built and connects to the Smith family. The Smith family not only made contributions that supported the development of Vaughan, but they were also early settlers in the area. This building 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.

### **Summary of Contextual attributes:**

- The four-square structure is a remnant of the Edgeley community
- The structure is historically linked connected to the nearby Edgeley cemetery;  
John Smith donated land for the property in 1824
- The structure is historically and physically linked to its surroundings
- Protection of the viewpoint of the house facing onto Jane Street