

## **STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Municipal Address: 11420 Huntington Road

Legal Description: PT E ½ LT 30 Con 10 VAUGHAN PT 1, 65R16285

Brief description: 1 ½ Gothic Revival/ Ontario Farmhouse

### **OVERVIEW**

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 12195 Highway 27 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: The Jeffery House

Date Built: ca.1860

Location: Slightly north of Nashville, just south of Kirby Road.

Condition: Okay

### **DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE**

Built of orange/red brick, the subject property is a representation of the Gothic Revival/Ontario Farmhouse style<sup>1</sup> home, with an “L” shaped floor plan. The Gothic Revival style was heavily promoted in the Canadian Farmer magazine in the 1860s making it a very popular design in Upper Canada. As well, property tax laws in Upper Canada were based on the number of stories in a house, so the 1 ½ storey plan allowed for two levels at a cheaper tax rate.<sup>2</sup>

Whether the house originally had any decorative bargeboard or gingerbread trim is unknown, but there is evidence of what was likely a wrap around porch/veranda, as you can see the markings on the front façade of the building (see attachment 3). The current front porch enclosure was put on much later, and without a visit to the house, it is difficult to determine the door visually, but the entrance is centred. The roof is steeply pitched with a front gable, and a beautiful, arched window is situated in the middle of the gable.

### **HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

The general area surrounding the subject property has potential for archaeological findings.<sup>3</sup>

#### **The Jefferys**

Alfred Jeffery was a farmer and Vaughan Township Councillor/Deputy Reeve (1856-1864)<sup>4</sup>, who worked and resided on this property with his family. He was a practicing Wesleyan

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<sup>1</sup> The Gothic Revival and the “Ontario House”, Ontario Architectural Style Guide, HPI Nomination Team, University of Waterloo, January 2009

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

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

<sup>4</sup> Members of Vaughan Township Council, 1850-1970

Methodist, who studied the teachings of John Wesley and was part of the United Church in Woodbridge, which was believed to have been built in 1836<sup>5</sup>.

Although, the area directory from 1847 confirms Alfred and his family did not occupy the subject property their entire time in Vaughan and shows Alfred Jeffery living at Lot 11 Con 9<sup>6</sup>. The 1851 Census of Canada indicates that Alfred Jeffery is going to be 38 years old, and it seems that at the time, he/his family still weren't living on the property<sup>7</sup>. The first documentation to show Alfred Jeffery on the subject property is the 1860 Tremaine map<sup>8</sup>. The 1861 Census of Canada indicated that Alfred Jeffery and his family are living in a 2-Storey brick house on the property<sup>9</sup>. A note in the City of Vaughan Archives recognizes the subject property as having been built ca.1870<sup>10</sup>, but due to the information from the Census records, the build date of the house is likely closer to 1860.

Jeffery was an active member in his community. As a politician, he served as Councillor and then Deputy Reeve for some time. Although eyebrows were raised when Jeffery was removed from his seat in 1860 due to being absent from a meeting 3 months in a row,<sup>11</sup> he was back the next year as a Councillor. As a farmer, he participated in the Vaughan Fall Fair. In 1860 he won first place for his one-year-old Draught Stallion and first place for his Leicester Ram.<sup>12</sup>

A patent for the subject land was granted from the Crown in November 1873 to Elisha Farr, amounting to 98 acres. Less than a year later, Farr sold his property to Benjamin Kaiser in January 1874. Kaiser then sold the property to James Culham in 1889.

### **The Culhams**

When James Culham purchased the subject property in 1889, it was an established farmstead. After years of farming and providing for his family, he unfortunately died in 1905 at the age of 68 from a heart problem.<sup>13</sup> James had left the property to his children, who continued to live there with their mom, Jane.

By 1914, most of the children, who had assumingly become married and moved on to their new lives, sold their portion of the property to Jane. Two children retained their ownership, Mabel and William Henry. It is unknown whether both were living on the property, as William's attestation paper from 1918 stated that he resided in Lloydtown, just north of Nashville in King Township. William Henry was a soldier in World War One and was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> C.O.R Regiment.<sup>14</sup> It is unknown whether he saw action or was on the home front. By 1923, both Mabel and William transferred their remaining portion of the property to their mother Jane. An auction sale poster

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<sup>5</sup> P.159, "A History of Vaughan Township", 1971, (CU14144173) by Reaman, George Elmore. personal. Courtesy of Local Histories Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary.

<sup>6</sup> Jeffery, Alfred, Vaughan, Brown's Toronto City and Home District Directory, 1846-1847

<sup>7</sup> 1851 Census of Canada

<sup>8</sup> 1860 Tremaine Map

<sup>9</sup> 1861 Census of Canada

<sup>10</sup> City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>11</sup> *Vaughan Council*, York Herald, Richmond Hill, 13 Jul 1860

<sup>12</sup> *Fall Fair at Pine Grove*, York Herald, Richmond Hill, 16 Nov 1860

<sup>13</sup> James Culham, Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1949; ancestry.ca

<sup>14</sup> William Henry Culham, Attestation Paper

from 1941 indicates the end of the property running as a farm, with the sale initiated by William Henry Culham for all the animals, implements and some household furniture.<sup>15</sup>

The house and property went on to stay within the Culham family for a few more years. John Culham purchased from his mother in 1938 and Mary J (Culham) Palmer gained ownership through her brother John in 1959, as he died and willed it to her. Mary held ownership until 1995, thus ending the Culham's family tenure on the property.

## **CONTEXTUAL VALUE**

The house located at 11420 Huntington Road has been in-situ since it was built. The area on Huntington Road where this property is located, still resembles a highly agricultural mixed with a bit of industrial atmosphere. As of 2024, the property is surrounded by farm and greenspace. To the north is the Nashville Conservation Reserve, directly south is the Huntington Stud farm, and across the street is the Humber River and Humber Valley Heritage Trail. Several of the original farm plots are visible when you zoom out on the image.<sup>16</sup>

## **SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE**

### **Physical/Design Value**

- Pre-Confederation construction; built ca.1860.
- Steeply pitched roof with front gable
- Arch under the front gable.
- Centred front entrance

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

- connection to specific historic settler families such as the Jefferys and Farris
- historically reflects some of the earliest settler architecture and siting, giving insight into settler practices.
- contextually linked to Vaughan's agricultural history from initial settlement and land clearing, early 19th farming practices.
- Connection to Vaughan's early political practices
- World War One, Military connection

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<sup>15</sup> Auction Sale, A.M. McEwen, Auctioneer, W.H. Culham, Tuesday Mar 25, 1941; City of Vaughan Archives

<sup>16</sup> Google Maps, 2024 imagery