

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 6120 King-Vaughan Road 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 MacTaggart House
Date Built: c. 1875
Location: North side of King Vaughan Road, west of Highway 27
Condition: Good



DESCRIPTION

Municipal Address: 6120 King-Vaughan Road
Legal Description: Concession 9, Part of Lot 1
Brief description: 1-1/2 storey structure built in the Ontario Cottage style

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Physical/Design Value

Contributing

- A good representative and surviving example of a brick clad 1½-storey Ontario Cottage with Gothic influence
- Steeply pitched and side gabled roof with cornice returns and masonry chimney
- Elaborate dichromatic brick orange/red brick cladding with buff brick banding, quoining, and radiating voussoirs
- Decorative dentiled cornice moulding
- Segmental arched and arched window openings
- Segmental arched entranceway with transom and sidelights

Historical/Associative Value

- Connection to significant archaeological resources both of early settler and indigenous peoples
- Direct connection to specific historic settler families such as the Hawman family, and MacTaggart family and their significant 19th to early 20th century farming practices
- Connection to the first mayor of King Township, Kenneth MacTaggart
- Connection to early Ontario settlers and architectural styles
- The property had roughly 132 years of continuous agricultural use since the early 1830's until the 1960's. Notably, a single family, the MacTaggart's, operated the farm for 93 years from 1869 until 1962

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, 19th and early 20th century farming practices, the evolution from subsistence farming to specialization in livestock.
- The subject structure has contextual value as it is historically linked to the Lot and Concession it was built upon
- The subject structure has contextual value as it is historically linked to the Lot and Concession it was built upon
- The subject structure has contextual value as it is historically linked to the historic village of Nobleton
- Longstanding ownership by the same family creates a significant historical link to the local community

DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

The Ontario Cottage is a vernacular variant of the Regency Cottage style of house that was commonly built in Ontario throughout the 19th century. This style of architecture became popular in the 1820s and remained a common style until the end of the century. Ontario Cottages were mainly constructed in small towns and rural areas during a period in which European settlers began to populate the interior of the province. This architectural style borrows elements from the Regency style with symmetrical, rectangular plans and a single gable above the door in the center of the building. Similarly, by the second half of the 19th century Gothic had become an increasingly popular architectural style in Canada and many Ontario Cottages built during this era incorporate gothic ornamentation as well.¹

Dating to circa 1875, the MacTaggart House at 6120 King-Vaughan Road has design and physical value as a good and well-maintained representative example of the Ontario Cottage architectural style with Gothic influence in Vaughan. The building has retained many of its original architectural details expressing Ontario Cottage and Gothic styles, including its simple floor plan, side gabled roof with cornice returns, and a steeply pitched centre gable featuring decorative dentiled cornice moulding. The dichromatic brickwork featuring red-brick laid in a stretcher bond with decorative masonry detailing in buff-brick including banding, quoining, and radiating voussoirs further contributes to the visual interest and architectural depth of the dwelling.² These decorative elements are also indicative of the popular Gothic influence at the time.

The building features segmental-arched windows on the first and second storey and arched windows in the steeply pitched centre gables, each with radiating voussoirs. The building's main entrance is raised and covered by a hip-roofed verandah that wraps around the southern and eastern facing elevations and features a doorcase with a segmental arched transom and sidelights. The original hipped roof verandah was removed at an unknown date and a new one was added with square posts along with a rear addition in 2006.³

HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

6120 King-Vaughan Road

The property at 6120 King-Vaughan Road originated as part of Lot 1, Concession 9, King Township. The subject property is located on the north side of King Vaughan, west of Highway 27. Land registry records indicate that the 200-acre Lot 1 was first patented from the Crown in 1803 by James Hunter. In 1804, James Hunter sold the 200-acre Lot 1 to Abraham Horning, who owned the property until 1833 when he sold all 200-acres to Gabriel Hawman for \$800.⁴

Gabriel Hawman

The Hawmans came from Pennsylvania and were of German descent. Gabriel Hawman appears as the owner of Lot 1, Concession 9 in the 1860 Tremaine map. Gabriel, the son of

¹ DiStefano, Lynne D. "The Ontario Cottage: The Globalization of a British Form in the Nineteenth Century." *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* 12, no. 2 (2001): 33-43. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41757868>.

² "The use of dichromatic brickwork (bricks of two colours) for the decoration of buildings was fashionable in Ontario in the last century. The fashion frequently involved the use of buff or yellow bricks at the corners and around window and door openings of red brick buildings and arranged in decorative designs in the walls. Examples are given of various decorative features used in dichromatic brickwork, including diamonds, zigzags, bands and crosses." *Notes on Dichromatic Brickwork in Ontario*, Richie, T, *Association for Preservation Technology Bulletin*, 11, 2, pp. 60-75, 1979 <https://nrc-publications.canada.ca/fra/voir/td/?id=b4862dc4-0c6f-4c3b-a927-62921480f466#:~:text=The%20use%20of%20dichromatic%20brickwork,Ontario%20in%20the%20last%20century.>

³ Arc-GIS, City of Vaughan.

⁴ Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book. York Region, Concession 9, Lot 1, King Township

Michael Hawman and Elizabeth Godfrey, was born in Vaughan in 1809⁵ and had a half-brother named John, who farmed on Lots 6 and 7 on the same concession.⁶ Gabriel married Elizabeth Burkholder in 1830 and together they had nine children. In 1833, Gabriel Hawman purchased all 200-acres of Lot 1, Concession 9 from Abraham Horning for \$800.⁷

Archival records indicate that there was initially a dwelling made of mud on Lot 1 Concession 9 that burnt down and was replaced by a stone dwelling.⁸ This stone dwelling is believed to have been constructed by Gabriel Hawman prior to the 1861 Census in which Gabriel is listed as a 52-year-old farmer living in a one-storey stone house.⁹ The 1860 Tremaine map also depicts a structure or dwelling on the east part of Lot 1, Concession 9, likely Gabriel's stone house.¹⁰

Tax assessment records from 1860 indicate that Gabriel Hawman was a prominent early settler in King Township, listing him as a 51-year-old farmer in King Township on Lot 1, Concession 9, with a total real property value of \$5500, indicating the presence of a dwelling and additional farm buildings as well as crops and farm animals. Furthermore, the 1861 Agricultural Census also notes that Gabriel Hawman's farm was producing 900 bushels of wheat on 44 acres, 280 bushels of peas on 14 acres, 1040 bushels of oats on 14 acres, 150 bushels of potatoes on $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre, and 200 bushels of turnip on 1 acre, amassing a total of $63\frac{3}{4}$ acres under crops, 40 acres under cultivation, $32\frac{1}{4}$ acres under pasture, and 4 acres under gardens or orchards with the remaining 59 acres being wooded/wild. Additionally, the 1861 agricultural census notes that the total cash value of Gabriel Hawman's farm at this time was \$7000 with an additional \$325 cash value of implements, indicating a substantial farming operation.

In 1869 Gabriel sold the 200-acre Lot 1 to Hugh McTaggart for \$12,000. This substantial increase in price likely reflects not only the construction of the stone dwelling but also further enhancements to the property, including additional structures like barns and farm buildings, new farming implements, and the overall appreciation of the land. By 1870, Gabriel and his wife Elizabeth had moved to the United States.¹¹

MacTaggart Family

Hugh MacTaggart

William and Martha MacTaggart, who immigrated to King Township from Scotland around 1832, originally took up land on the 8th Concession near the 16th Sideroad, and had 7 children: James, Alexander, Robert, Martha, Hugh, Isabella and Janet.¹²

Hugh MacTaggart, born in Vaughan in 1837¹³, bought all 200-acres of Lot 1, Concession 9 in 1869 from Gabriel Hawman.¹⁴ Hugh married Janet MacGillivray around the same time.¹⁵ Archival sources indicate that together the couple lived in a house that Hugh later bricked and

⁵ "Gabriel Hawman (1809 - 1883)." Wiki Tree. Accessed August 12, 2024. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hawman-9>.

⁶ Hawman Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

⁷ Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book. York Region, Concession 9, Lot 1, King Township.

⁸ MacTaggart Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

⁹ 1861 Census of Canada, Ancestry- Library Edition; www.ancestry.ca (Vaughan Public Libraries).

¹⁰ This stone house is believed to have been 12330 Highway 27, which was located on the northeastern part of Lot 1, Concession 9 until 2009 when it was lost in a fire.

¹¹ "Elizabeth Burkholder (1813 - 1893)." Wiki Tree. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burkholder-271>.

¹² MacTaggart Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

¹³ Hugh McTaggart (1837 – 1909), Ancestry- Library Edition; www.ancestry.ca (Vaughan Public Libraries).

¹⁴ Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book. York Region, Concession 9, Lot 1, King Township.

¹⁵ Marriage Registers, Ancestry- Library Edition; www.ancestry.ca (Vaughan Public Libraries).

enlarged on the King-Vaughan Town Line¹⁶ (King-Vaughan Road), likely referring to the subject property. It was in this brick house that Hugh and Janet raised several children: William A., Robert James, Mary, Archibald, Tena, and Margaret.

The first evidence of the subject dwelling appears on the 1878 Tremaine Map of York County, in which two structures or dwellings can be identified in the whole of Lot 1, Concession 9. It is believed that the structure or dwelling to the east is the stone house constructed by Gabriel Hawman, and the structure to the west is the subject dwelling, constructed by Hugh MacTaggart.

Although not visible on any maps prior to the 1878 Tremaine map, Tax Assessment records indicate that the real property value of Lot 1 Concession 9 increases from \$5800 in 1875 to \$11500 in 1878. This increase in value suggests that the subject dwelling was constructed between 1875 and 1878. The 1875 Tax Assessment records also indicate that Hugh had 12 cattle, 25 sheep, 8 hogs, and 4 horses on his farm, further highlighting the presence of a significant farming operation on Lot 1, Concession 9. Tax Assessment rolls continue to note similar quantities of cattle, sheep, hogs and horses throughout the 1880s, 1890s, and early 1900s, highlighting a long-standing agricultural use of the property.

The 1891 Census lists Hugh MacTaggart and his family as living in a 2-storey brick house with 7 rooms, referring to the subject property.

Aside from running a significant farming operation, Hugh was made an executor for many estates in Scotland and often had to make trips to oversee this business. He was also an elder at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on the 10th Line, which was often referred to as the "Old Kirk," and was removed in 1960.¹⁷

Sometime around 1908, Hugh left the farm and moved to the Kleinburg/Nashville area, where he lived for about a year before dying of heart failure in 1909.¹⁸ Prior to his departure, Hugh divided his farm into north and south halves, with his son Archibald receiving the south half, known as *Thistlebrae*, and his other son Robert James the north half, known as *Willow Grove*.

Archibald MacTaggart

Archibald was born in Nobleton in 1836 and was raised in the subject dwelling at 6120 King-Vaughan Road. After the death of his father in 1909, Archibald was granted 100-acres of Lot 1 Concession 9, identified as the south half. Archibald rented out his half of the farm for a year and then sold it to his brother Robert James in 1910 for \$7500. Archibald then traveled to the McTaggart township in Saskatchewan in the same year, where he was a prominent pioneer and farmer.¹⁹

Archibald returned home for a year in 1919 to marry Orpha Pringle of Nobleton, and together they returned to the west, settling once more in McTaggart, Saskatchewan, where the couple resided for a total of 41 years, until Archibald's death in 1959.²⁰

¹⁶ MacTaggart Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

¹⁷ MacTaggart Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

¹⁸ Deaths and Deaths Overseas, Ancestry- Library Edition; www.ancestry.ca (Vaughan Public Libraries).

¹⁹ *Service Held for Pioneer*, The Leader-Post, June 23, 1959.

²⁰ MacTaggart Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

Robert James MacTaggart

Robert James MacTaggart was born in 1879 in Nobleton and was raised in the subject dwelling with his brother Archibald. Robert married Viola Ham around 1906, and together they had four children: Margurite, Kenneth, Templeton, and Norene.

Upon the death of his father, Hugh MacTaggart, in 1909, Robert James took over the family farm that his father had left him. In the same year, Robert James also inherited 100-acres, identified as the west half of Lot 3 Concession 9 from his uncle Robert. Robert James then sold the west half of Lot 3 in 1912 and bought his brother Archibald's half of the farm on Lot 1 Concession 9, which he had been using as an income property.²¹

Tax Assessment records from 1910 indicate that the total value of the buildings on Lot 1 Concession 9 was \$2000 and the "Actual Value of the Parcel of Real Property Exclusive of Buildings" was \$8000. This suggests that the change in value of the property over time was largely attributed to the assessed value of the farmland itself, as well as any fencing, outbuildings, irrigation systems, crop and soil quality, and any permanent improvements such as land clearing.

Around 1910, Robert James sold his farm stock and implements and moved to Toronto to go into real estate with his brother-in-law, Herbert Patton. Robert James then returned to Nobleton in 1915 and purchased a General Store from J.W. Larkin, which he operated for many years. Along with the general store, Robert James also held the position of Secretary Treasurer of Nobleton School Section, a position which he held for 42 years.²² In 1919, Robert James left the store and returned to the family farm, where he lived until his death in 1956.²³

Throughout his life, Robert James was an ardent supporter of the Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder for many years in the same church on the 10th line of King Township that his father was an elder at, as well as in the United Church.

Kenneth MacTaggart

Kenneth MacTaggart, a son of Robert James, worked in Toronto for the Bank of Nova Scotia for several years before returning to the family farm. After his father Robert James' death in 1956, Kenneth inherited all 200-acres of Lot 1 Concession 9. Kenneth then operated the family farm until 1962, when the barns were destroyed by a fire.²⁴ In 1966 Kenneth MacTaggart began to sell of large portions of his 200-acre property.

To shift away from farming, Kenneth entered politics in the early 1960s. Successful in this endeavor, Kenneth first served King Township as deputy reeve, a position which he held until the end of 1970. Kenneth was also elected to the King Township Council in 1963. An excerpt from Kenneth's obituary from *The Liberal* in 1990 describes Kenneth's political career as well as his other contributions to the community:

"Mr. MacTaggart first was elected to the King Township council in 1963. He was elected deputy reeve in 1960, retaining that position in annual elections to the end of 1970. He became the township's first mayor, serving in 1971 and 1972, before retiring from the local political scene following the death of his first wife, Marion Smith... Prior to being

²¹ MacTaggart Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

²² Ibid.

²³ *Obituary*, *The Liberal*, March 22, 1956.

²⁴ MacTaggart Family File, King Township Archives, Local History and Genealogy Collection, date Unknown.

elected to the council, Mr. MacTaggart served for 10 years as secretary-treasurer of S.S. 19, the school board that operated what is now the Nobleton Junior Public School which his grandfather [Hugh MacTaggart] had helped build... Mr. MacTaggart worked in Toronto for the Bank of Nova Scotia for a couple of years before returning to the farm.”²⁵

Archival sources indicate that Kenneth MacTaggart also operated a school bus for Langdon’s Coach Lines of King City.²⁶ A very active member in King Township during this time, Kenneth MacTaggart served as President of King Township’s Federation of Agriculture for multiple years.²⁷ Kenneth was also an active member in local hockey and baseball, the Nobleton Lions Club, Bolton’s True Blue Lodge, a noble of the Ramses Shrine, and part of the choir for the United Church in Nobleton.²⁸

Kenneth MacTaggart sold the remainder of his property on Lot 1 Concession 9 and moved to Stouffville around 1983.²⁹ It was here he resided until his death in 1990.

While the original 200-acre farm has since been subdivided and sold, the MacTaggart house at 6120 King-Vaughan Road stands as a poignant symbol of the farm’s storied past. The rich history associated with this dwelling and its owners not only reflects 132 years of continuous agricultural operation, but also serves as a lasting tribute to the early MacTaggart settler family, who owned and operated the farm as well as the dwelling at 6120 King-Vaughan for at least 93 years. The dwelling stands today as a testament to their enduring connection to the land and to the generations of their descendants who were active members in the local community, further enriching the historical and associative significance of the house.

CONTEXTUAL VALUE

Though this property was not part of Vaughan Township until 1971, it carries similar history and context to those which were always part of Vaughan Township. This structure, which has retained its original location, form, orientation, and massing, serves as a fine example of Victorian architecture, defining, supporting, and maintaining the fine-grained late-19th and early-20th century agricultural/rural character of King Vaughan Road.

The MacTaggart House at 6120 King-Vaughan Road also has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. The subject property is located within an area that has a definable rural character, surrounded by remnant farmhouses/farmsteads in close proximity, contributing to a distinctive sense of place. The subject property also features open green space, mature trees, and shrubbery which further contributes to the historic character of the surrounding context.

The property also has a long-standing relation to agricultural history and practices of the area and is linked to two particular family names (Hawman and MacTaggart) who had a significant presence in the early history of Vaughan and King Townships.

²⁵ *Kenneth MacTaggart was King’s First Mayor*, The Liberal, October 17, 1990.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ *Battle of Veterans for Reeve, Deputy-Reeve, King*, The Liberal, December 2, 1965.

²⁸ *Kenneth MacTaggart was King’s First Mayor*, The Liberal, October 17, 1990.

²⁹ Ibid.