

APPENDIX 'D': Research Reports

RESEARCH REPORT



Pipher-Lewis House East Part Lot 27, Concession 6 10982 McCowan Road c.1860

**Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023**

History

The Pipher-Lewis House is located on the eastern half of Markham Township lot 27, Concession 6, northwest of the Markham Fairgrounds.

King's College, the forerunner of the University of Toronto, received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 27, Concession 6, in 1828. This was formerly a Crown Reserve lot. King's College sold to Benjamin Oberholzen in 1832 who sold the property in two parts. The larger eastern portion, consisting of 130 acres, was sold to Joseph Pipher Sr. of Dickson Hill in 1840.

Joseph Pipher Sr. was a son of Samuel Pfeiffer and Barbara (Labar) Pfeiffer, Pennsylvania German Mennonites who came to Markham Township in 1801. The Pfeiffer's were listed as residing on Lot 27, Concession 7 in William Berczy's census of Markham settlers taken in 1803. Berczy did not include the name of Samuel Pfeiffer's wife. Three children were listed: Margaretha, age 14, John, age 12, and Joseph, age 3. The spelling of the family name was later changed to "Pipher."

The property purchased in 1840 by Joseph Pipher Sr. was directly across the road from the farm of his father. Samuel Pfeiffer died in 1842. Joseph Pipher Sr. did not reside on

this property. He lived on Lot 29, Concession 8, Dickson Hill, a property he purchased in 1826. According to census records, Joseph Pipher Sr. was a farmer born in Canada in 1800. His first wife was Catherine Kleiser who died in 1836. His second wife was Leah Kaiser. In 1861, the family constructed a fine two-storey stone house that still stands at 33 Dickson Hill Road.

The property on Lot 27, Concession 6 (the subject property) later became the farm of Joseph and Catherine Pipher's son, Joseph Pipher Jr., born in 1834. At the time of the 1851 census, at the age of 17, Joseph Pipher Jr. was unmarried and living with his parents on Lot 29, Concession 8. By the time of the 1861 census, Joseph Pipher Jr. was married, and lived on Lot 27, Concession 6 with his wife Elizabeth (Long) Pipher, and their two young daughters, in a two- storey frame house. The frame farmhouse at 10982 McCowan Road is estimated to have been constructed between 1856-1860.

Joseph Pipher and Elizabeth (Long) Pipher had at least 7 children. The Pipher family was originally Mennonite, but changed to the Methodist Church over time, as shown in census records. After his father's death in the late 1860s, Joseph Pipher Jr. became the owner of the farm on Lot 27, Concession 6. At the time of the 1891 census, two daughters were living in their household: the widowed Ellen Robinson, and Josephine, who was unmarried. Their dwelling was described as a two-storey wood house containing 10 rooms.

When Joseph and Elizabeth Pipher retired from farming in about 1895, they moved to a new house at 1 Peter Street in the community of Mount Joy, north of Markham Village. In 1919, the executors of Joseph and Elizabeth Pipher's estate sold the farm property to John. H. Hargraves, who in turn sold to Thomas Hargraves in 1924. In 1926, the farm was sold to Ambrose Lewis, beginning a long history of ownership by the Lewis family. In 1957, the farm passed from Gordon Lewis to brothers Murray Lewis and Harry Lewis. Harry John Lewis and his wife, Esther Mae (Reesor) Lewis, operated a dairy farm on this property. The farm was sold out of the family in 2019.

Of particular historical interest concerning the Lewis farm was an annual event held in the summer each year from the 1980s to 2019 where vintage agricultural implements of all kinds were operated as a demonstration of old-time farming technology. Most of the equipment was horse-drawn, carefully restored to operating condition, and painted in original colours. The yearly pageant of old-time farming provided much inspiration to the late Murray Pipher, a local artist and a member of this old Markham family. His depiction of rural scenes, farm life and farm animals are very much admired by people familiar with his paintings in acrylic. His paintings depict a vanishing way of life, the family farm, and truly capture the feeling of the people, animals and places in a way that will preserve them forever.

Architecture

The Pipher-Lewis House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling on a fieldstone foundation, sided in wood board and batten. The main block has a rectangular plan shape. There is a rear kitchen wing offset to the south, on the rear wall. The board and

batten siding is divided by a wide horizontal band between the ground floor and the second storey. This band indicates the former presence of a veranda that once wrapped around the front and south sides of the house. The northern end of the band on the front wall shows the distinctive curved outline of a bellcast roof.

The medium-pitched gable roof has projecting, open eaves. There is a steep centre gable on the primary (east) elevation that contains a small, pointed-arched, 2/2 window. The gable is trimmed with delicate, curvilinear bargeboards. There is a single-stack red brick chimney at the north end of the roof, and an exterior red brick chimney on the front wall, set close to the south corner of the building. Both of these chimneys date from the modern era.

On the front or east wall is a gable-roofed porch that shelters the front entrance. The porch is supported on heavy, square, full-height wood columns in the Edwardian Classical style. The south side entrance is sheltered by a similar, but smaller porch. There is a shed-roofed veranda on the south wall of the kitchen wing, in the ell. The veranda roof is supported on slender, plain wood posts.

The house has a 3-bay front with a centre doorcase containing a single-leaf door flanked by three-paned sidelights with panelled aprons below. To the right of the door is a single-hung window with 6/6 panes. On the left side of the door is a modern bay window in the approximate location of where the original, smaller window opening was once located.

On the south gable end ground floor level there is a single-leaf door on the right, within the side porch, and a modern, horizontally-oriented window on the left. On the upper storey, there are two, single-hung 6/6 windows.

Architecturally, the Pipher-Lewis House is an altered, representative example of the Ontario Classic style, as defined by Marion MacRea and Anthony Adamson in *The Ancestral Roof – Domestic Architecture of Upper Canada* (1963):

“The little vernacular house, still stubbornly Georgian in form and wearing its little gable with brave gaiety, became the abiding image of the province. It was to be the Ontario Classic style.”

The Ontario Classic is a house form that was popular from the 1860s to the 1890s with many examples constructed on farms and in village throughout Markham Township. The design was promoted in architectural pattern books, and a design for “a cheap country dwelling house” of this type appeared in an edition of the journal, *The Canada Farmer*, in 1865. These vernacular dwellings were often decorated with features associated with the picturesque Gothic Revival style, as was the case with the Pipher-Lewis House, with its pointed-arched window and curvilinear bargeboards in its centre gable. The essential form of the Ontario Classic was symmetrically balanced, with a centrally-placed front door flanked by a window on either side, a hold-over from the long-standing, conservative formality of the Georgian architectural tradition, and a steep

centre gable above the entrance. A one-and-a-half storey height and a T-shaped plan were typical, with the rear portion of the “T” being a single-storey kitchen wing.

The alterations to the Pipher-Lewis House, particularly the addition of Edwardian Classical porches and a modern bay window, illustrate how dwellings undergo changes to suit the needs and tastes of different owners over time. In this case, the changes have left the original architectural character of the building largely intact.

Context

The Pipher-Lewis House is located on a farm to the east of the historic crossroads hamlet of Cashel. The property is a complete farmstead that includes a gambrel-roofed barn and other outbuildings. It is one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses that remain in this area of Markham which is currently rural, but will in time become part of the City’s urban fabric. To the south of this property is Peaches United Church, an historic place of worship. The Markham Fairgrounds is located to the south-east, on the opposite side of McCowan Road.

Sources

Deed Abstract for Markham Township Lot 27, Concession 6.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891.

Directories of Markham Township: Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871), 1892 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario, 1878.

Property Files for 10982 McCowan Road and 33 Dickson Hill Road.

Murray Pipher, Artist website pipher.ca

Markham Historical Society Newsletters *Remember Markham*: Summer 2014 and Fall 2019.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 30 and 327.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000. Page 311-312.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Pipher-Lewis House has design value and physical value as an altered, representative example of a vernacular farmhouse in the Ontario Classic style.

The property has historical or associative value because it has direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Pipher-Lewis House has historical and associative value, representing the theme of the continuing contribution of later generations of early settler families to the agricultural development of their community, and for its association with

the Pennsylvania German Pipher family, whose patriarch, Samuel Pfeiffer, came to Markham Township in 1801. It has further historical and associative value for its association with the Lewis family who operated a dairy farm there from 1926 into the 2000s.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Pipher-Lewis House has contextual value as the farmhouse that historically served this property for over 150 years, where it has stood since c.1860. The dwelling is in a highly visible location proximate to a series of other municipally recognized heritage resources in the vicinity of Cashel. Together these resources maintain legibility of Cashel as a crossroads settlement dating from the nineteenth century.

RESEARCH REPORT



John and Adeline Miller House **Southeast Quarter Lot 29, Concession 5** **11276 Kennedy Road** **c.1895**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design, 2024

History

The John and Adeline Miller House is located on a portion of the southeast quarter of Markham Township Lot 29, Concession 5, in the vicinity of the historic hamlet of Cashel.

George Mustard received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 29, Concession 5, in 1839. According to William Berczy's 1803 census of Markham settlers, George Mustard was associated with this property as early as 1801. In 1803 he was listed as residing there.

George Mustard's history is well documented in historical records. He was a son of Alexander Mustard of Farness County, Scotland. His brother, James Mustard, left Scotland in 1795 and reached Markham Township in 1801 via Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Gordon) Mustard settled on Lot 29, Concession 6. They were also listed in Berczy's 1803 census.

James and George Mustard were strong supporters of the Presbyterian Church, attending St. Helen's Church at Cashel and later, Melville Church. George Mustard donated a parcel of land for Melville Presbyterian Church and Cemetery in 1849.

At the time of the 1851 census, George Mustard was a widower, age 82. He lived in a one-storey log house on Lot 29, Concession 5. His son, William Mustard, also resided on the property in a separate household with his wife, Anna or Annie (Graham) Mustard and their four young children. An additional Mustard family household on Lot 29 was that of James G. Mustard, another son of George Mustard. He lived in a one-storey frame dwelling with his wife, Jane (Gibson) Mustard and their young son, George. They resided on the eastern part of the farm.

George Mustard sold the western half of Lot 29, Concession 5 to his son William Mustard in 1853. William Mustard constructed a stone farmhouse on the property c.1862, which still stands at 11303 Warden Avenue.

George Mustard Sr. died in 1853. The George McPhillips map of Markham Township dated 1853-54 shows James Mustard's name on the northeast quarter of Lot 29, Concession 5, and his brother Alexander Mustard's name on the southeast quarter. Based on Markham Township directories, Alexander Mustard did not reside on the property during this time period.

From the land records, it appears that after the death of George Mustard Sr., Alexander Mustard became the owner of the northeast quarter of Lot 29, Concession 5, and his brother James G. Mustard the southeast quarter.

A weaver named Henderson Bell (1804-1880) became associated with a half-acre parcel on the eastern half of Lot 29, Concession 5 by the mid-nineteenth century. He was associated with the hamlet of Cashel, and was listed in a directory of the community in Mitchell's directory of 1866. At the time of the 1851 census, Henderson Bell, his second wife Jane, and their four children, all born in Ireland and members of the Presbyterian Church, were residing on the property as tenants of James G. Mustard.

In 1860, Henderson Bell purchased the half-acre parcel from James G. Mustard and his wife. At the time of the 1861 census, Henderson Bell was a widower residing with his children Mary, Maria, Margaret and John in a one-storey frame dwelling. In 1863, Henderson Bell sold the property to his daughter Mary Ann Bell (1846-1930). Although the property was sold, Henderson Bell continued to reside there with his unmarried daughter, as indicated in the 1871 census. Henderson Bell died in 1880 in Springfield, Elgin County, Ontario.

In 1882, Mary A. Bell sold her property in Markham Township to John Miller (1843-1919). At the time of the 1871 census, Scots Presbyterian immigrants Walter Miller and Janet (Burke) Miller were tenants on 50 acres of Lot 29, Concession 5. In the same household were their four unmarried adult children Walter, Margaret, John and William,

all born in Ontario. Their neighbours were Henderson Bell and his daughter, Mary Ann, and Jane Briggs, a widow. John Miller, son of Walter and Jane Miller, was the same John Miller that purchased the Bell property in 1882.

When the 1881 census was taken, John Miller was employed as a labourer. He had married in 1877. His wife's name was Adeline (Cook) Miller (1853-1937). They resided on the eastern part of Lot 10, Concession 5, in the vicinity of Unionville. No children were listed.

At the time of the 1891 census, John and Adeline Miller were living on the half-acre property on Lot 29, Concession 5 in the Cashel area. Their home was described as a two-storey wood building containing six rooms. This may have been the frame house previously occupied by Henderson Bell and his daughter Mary Ann, perhaps improved with a second storey from its previous single-storey state as described in the 1861 census. John and Adeline Miller may have constructed a completely new dwelling on the property in the mid-1890s, based on its architectural detailing, which resembles that of other Markham examples from that general time period. A detailed examination of the underlying structure of the existing house at 11276 Kennedy Road would be necessary to fully understand the origin of the structure, to determine if an older phase of construction is embedded within it.

The present two-storey brick-veneered dwelling at 11276 Kennedy Road reflects the architectural tastes of late nineteenth century Markham Township. The MPAC date of construction is 1880, which predates the Miller period of ownership and is therefore subject to question as to its accuracy.

Taking all of the above information into consideration, a tentative date of construction for the John and Adeline Miller House in its present form is c.1895, based on its architectural detailing.

John Miller was an Elder of Melville Presbyterian Church, ordained in 1914 and serving until his death in 1919. He also served as the church caretaker for many years, according to a history of Melville Church published in 1945.

John Miller willed the property to his wife Adeline in 1919. Her estate sold to Jane Breckon in 1937. John and Adeline Miller were interred at Melville United Church Cemetery, not far from this property. A number of owners followed: Viola Henry (1954), Clarence and Edith Wideman (1956), Dorothy Bell (1976), June Rose Henry (1984), Patrica Rose English (2000) and Robert Bisset and Janice Saville (2003). A large two-storey frame addition was made to the rear of the house at some point after the Miller period of ownership.

Architecture

The John and Adeline Miller House is a two-storey brick veneered dwelling with an L-shaped plan. There are two-storey canted bay windows on both the south and east gable ends, and an enclosed later porch within the street-facing ell. At the rear of the

heritage building is a large, two-storey frame addition with a hip roof. A two-car garage made of painted concrete block is attached to the south wall of the rear addition.

The heritage structure rests on a fieldstone foundation. The brickwork, laid in running bond, has been painted for many years, based on photographs in the City of Markham's files. The colour of the brick beneath the paint is not known. The brickwork is ornamented with a projecting brick plinth, radiating segmental brick arches over window openings, and a string course between the level of the ground floor and second floor on the bay windows. There is also a string course below the level of the eaves.

The steeply-pitched cross-gable roof has wide, projecting, open eaves. No historic chimneys remain. The eaves have a cutaway profile on the south and east gable ends that extend to roof over the bay windows. The gable ends are ornamented with fretwork brackets that visually support a grille of plain, upright wood slats. In other Markham examples of late nineteenth century houses of this style, the gable ornamentation extends into the upper angle of the gable. It is possible that some decorative woodwork on this house has been removed over time. No archival photographs have been located to show the Miller House prior to its current state.

The enclosed front porch is an obvious later addition and conceals the principal entrance. Based on the style and period of the building, there was likely an open porch withing the ell at one time.

Window openings are tall and narrow in proportion, with projecting lugsills, typical of the late nineteenth century period of construction. The window openings are segmentally-headed, suggesting that the original windows were also segmentally-headed. At present, the old openings contain modern replacement windows. Decorative window shutters visible in the photograph used in this report have been removed but were not of an historic nature.

The John and Adeline Miller House is a representative example of a late Victorian rural dwelling rendered in the vernacular Queen Anne Revival style. The Queen Anne Revival style was popular in late nineteenth century Markham Township for houses in village and in rural areas, with examples in frame and brick. It was the most eclectic style of domestic architecture in the nineteenth century, originating in England and adopted by American architects who created their own interpretation suited to American tastes. The American version of the Queen Anne Revival influenced domestic architecture in neighbouring Canada. Designs were offered in pattern books that featured spacious dwellings with picturesque, irregular massing, complex rooflines with multiple gables, projecting bays, deep verandas and multiple textures in cladding materials. Some designs featured corner towers. The main design principle was balance rather than symmetry. Many examples in Markham have ornate fretwork decoration in gables and on porches and verandas.

The Miller House is a restrained example, with the irregular massing, vertical emphasis, picturesque roofline and ornamented gables characteristic of the Queen Anne Revival.

Its essential historical fabric and design intent remain largely intact, notwithstanding changes such as the painting of the brick, window replacement within old openings, and a modern-era enclosed porch. All of the changes are reversible. The large rear addition and attached garage do not seriously affect the integrity of the mid-1890s structure because of their position at the back of the late Victorian dwelling.

Context

The John and Adeline Miller House is just north of the former Melville United Church (11248 Kennedy Road, in the process of designation under the Ontario Heritage Act) and its former manse (11264 Kennedy Road). The property is situated to the north of the historic crossroads hamlet of Cashel, and a little to the south of the historic mill hamlet of Almira. The Upper Unionville Golf Club is situated directly across the road from the subject property. The Miller House stands on its original site. There are no associated historic accessory structures remaining on the property.

Sources

Deed abstracts for Markham Township Lot 29, Concession 5.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901.

Markham Township Directories: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), 1892 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Research Reports on 11303 Warden Avenue and 11288 Kennedy Road, containing research on Lot 29, Concession 5, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Mustard Family File, Heritage Section.

"William Mustard." *History of Toronto and County of York, Ontario, Volume II: Biographical Notices*. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson, 1885. Page 300.

"Death of N. Mustard Recalls an Historic Family Background." *The Stouffville Tribune*. February 10, 1944.

John Miller and Adeline Cook, Find-a-Grave Website.

Bruce, Alexander D. *Historical Sketch of Melville Church and its Presbyterian Background from 1801*. Markham: Privately published, 1945. Pages 26 and 41.

Champion, Isabel (ed.) *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 76-77, 142, 206-207, 326.

RESEARCH REPORT



Robson and Amanda Jewitt House **West Half of East Half, Lot 31, Concession 5** **4180 Nineteenth Avenue** **c.1892**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023

History

The Robson and Amanda Jewitt House is located on the western half of the east half of Markham Township Lot 31, Concession 5.

The property upon which the house at 4180 Nineteenth Avenue stands was originally part of a Clergy Reserve, consisting of the 200 acres of Lot 31, Concession 5, leased to John Klein as early as 1804. In 1850, Benjamin Bowman received the Crown patent for the western 40 acres of the eastern half of Lot 31, later adding to his holdings in the centre of the Township lot by receiving the Crown patent for the eastern 50 acres of the western half of Lot 31 in 1862. Bruce Creek, a tributary of the Rouge River runs through the 40-acre parcel which created an opportunity for a mill in that location. This characteristic of the property is likely what led Benjamin Bowman to select it.

Walton's Directory of 1837 lists Benjamin Bowman as residing on Lot 31, Concession 5, several years prior to his formal acquisition of the property from the Crown. It is likely that he was leasing the land at that time, but what is not precisely known is when he initially settled there or began work on his mills. The 1851 census tells us that Benjamin Bowman, a clothier by trade (i.e. cloth or clothing manufacturer), was born in Ireland and was a member of the Free Presbyterian Church. He was 55 years of age and married to Jane (Dowling) Bowman, age 50, also born in Ireland. John Bowman, their eldest son, was a miller, and his younger brothers Robert and Benjamin were employed with their father as clothiers. Another son, Scott, was a farmer. The traditional date of construction of the Almira flour and woolen mills is 1844 with Benjamin Bowman credited as the builder. The mill was a two-and-a-half storey brick building.

The 1861 census listed four residences on the Bowman property: a two-storey brick house occupied by Benjamin Bowman, at that time a merchant (and local Postmaster) rather than a clothier, and three frame houses, one occupied by Scott Bowman, a farmer, another occupied by John Bowman, a clothier, and the last occupied by Joseph Cook, also a clothier. It was typical to have a miller's residence, and also mill worker's cottages for the employees, in connection with milling operations in the historical development of Ontario communities. The establishment of a mill in association with a river or stream was often the impetus for the emergence of settlements in the early days of the Province, as was the case in Almira.

One of the three frame dwellings noted in the 1861 census may have been on the site of 4180 Nineteenth Avenue. The MPAC date of construction is 1851. The house immediately to the west at 4167 Nineteenth Avenue was made up of two separate buildings joined together at some point in their history, perhaps to create a double house, or a larger single residence.

Benjamin Bowman died in 1862. The mill property passed to Benjamin and Jane Bowman's son, John. John Bowman operated the business for a period of time, then sold to William Spofford in 1869. William Spofford sold to Alfred Spofford in 1877. In 1880, the mill property was purchased by Samuel Boyer Lehman who operated the Amira Mills under the name S. B. Lehman & Sons until 1943 when the building was severely damaged by fire. A remnant of a later addition to the c.1844 mill, renovated and expanded, stands at 4160 Nineteenth Avenue. That property is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.

Samuel Lehman sold a quarter acre portion of the mill property to Amanda Jewett (usually spelled "Jewitt") in 1892. This property possibly contained one of the three frame dwellings noted in the 1861 census. Amanda (Woodard) Jewett was married to Robson Jewett, an English immigrant who came to Canada in 1881. He was born in Settle, North Yorkshire. Four Jewett brothers emigrated to North America in the late nineteenth century, but Robson Jewett was the only one to permanently settle in Canada. His parents were Isaac Jewett and Mary (Robson) Jewett. Isaac Jewett was an English farmer who later became an employee of a railway.

Amanda Jewitt was the daughter of Amos Woodard and Sarah (Wideman) Woodard. After Amos Woodard died, Sarah married Jacob Horner. When Robson and Amanda Jewitt were first married in 1891, they lived in the household of Jacob and Sarah Horner on a rural property, Lot 32, Concession 2, west of Almira.

Robson Jewitt was a farm labourer, according to the 1901 census. At that time, Robson and Amanda Jewitt had three young children, Edwin, Elizabeth, and Elsie. Sarah Horner, a widow by that time, lived in the same household. The Jewitt family either remodeled and enlarged a modest millworker's cottage on their property or built an entirely new dwelling in the early 1890s. An archival photograph in the collection of the Markham Museum, taken before the mill was damaged by fire in 1943, shows the house at 4180 Nineteenth Avenue before it was updated by later owners. At that time, the house had vertical tongue and groove wood siding and a full-width, hipped-roofed front veranda.



House at 4180 Nineteenth Avenue (right) and the Almira Mills (centre) in a photograph taken before the mill was damaged by fire in 1943 (Source: Markham Museum Archival Collection)

In the 1911 census, Robson and Amada Jewitt had the same three children but at that time, Amanda Jewitt's widowed mother Sarah Horner and her widowed grandmother, Susie (Susannah) Wideman, also lived in the same household. Robson Jewitt's occupation was "labourer."

Robson Jewitt died in 1935. Amanda Jewitt sold the property in 1944 and moved to Southwestern Ontario to be nearer to her married children. The property subsequently passed through the ownership of the Painter, King, Chymbur and Slater families. The current appearance of the house likely dates from the most recent period of ownership by the Chymbur-Slater family, 1962 to present.

Architecture

The Robson and Amanda Jewitt House is a one-and-a-half storey wood and brick-clad frame dwelling with an irregular plan shape. The oldest part of the house is the front, or southerly portion, which has a rectangular plan and rests upon a raised fieldstone foundation. A substantial two-storey addition has been made to the rear, and a small vestibule has been added to the front wall, sheltering the front door. The rear addition extends past the east wall of the oldest part of the house.

The front wall of the house is clad in wide, horizontal wood siding with a rustic, wavy edge. The effect is cottage-like in character. The sidewalls are clad in brown and red modern-era brick. It is not known if the siding on the front wall covers similar brick. The vestibule is a modern-era frame structure with a hipped roof. The vertical wood cladding of the vestibule extends to the east to form a privacy screen around the front entrance

The roof of the front portion of the house is a medium-pitched gable with overhanging, open eaves. There is a steep centre gable on the front slope that until recently was trimmed with a modest display of curvilinear bargeboard in the peak. The centre gable contains a pointed-arched Gothic Revival window behind a flat-headed storm window. The original two-over-two paned window has been replaced with a modern unit. Until recently, two historic chimneys remained on each gable end of the roof. The lower portion of the westerly chimney was likely removed the last time the roof cladding was replaced. Windows flanking the enclosed front porch that shelters the principal entrance are flat-headed and have two-over-two panes. They appear to be recent replacements. Similar windows are seen on the east and west gable ends.

In terms of the historical development of this house, an examination of the underlying structure would be required to determine if the structure was built around a mid-nineteenth century mill worker's cottage. The most likely area to reveal this type of information would be the structure of the main floor, possibly visible in the basement.

Architecturally, the Robson and Amanda Jewitt House is a representative example of the Ontario Classic style, as defined by Marion MacRea and Anthony Adamson in *The Ancestral Roof – Domestic Architecture of Upper Canada* (1963):

“The little vernacular house, still stubbornly Georgian in form and wearing its little gable with brave gaiety, became the abiding image of the province. It was to be the Ontario Classic style.”

The Ontario Classic is a house form that was popular from the 1860s to the 1890s with many examples constructed on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township. The design was promoted in architectural pattern books and a design for “a cheap country dwelling house” of this type appeared in an edition of the journal, *The Canada Farmer*, in 1865. These vernacular dwellings were often decorated with features associated with the picturesque Gothic Revival style, as was the case with the Robson and Amanda Jewitt House, with its pointed-arched window and curvilinear bargeboards in its centre gable. The essential form of the Ontario Classic was symmetrically

balanced with a centrally-placed front door flanked by a window on either side, a hold-over from the long-standing, conservative formality of the Georgian architectural tradition, and a steep centre gable above the entrance. A one-and-a-half storey height and a T-shaped plan were also typical with the rear portion of the “T” usually a single-storey kitchen. In this case, the kitchen wing has been replaced by a large, two-storey modern-era addition.

If the first phase of this house was indeed an older millworker’s cottage in the Georgian architectural tradition, it would be a similar situation as the George Pingle Jr. House at 4022 Major Mackenzie Drive, which started as a low, one-and-a-half storey Georgian tradition frame dwelling c.1842 that had its knee walls raised and a steeper roof added in the 1890s.

The archival photograph, showing vertical tongue and groove siding and a full-width, hipped-roofed front veranda, could allow the future restoration of some of the original features of the Robson and Amanda Jewitt House.

Context

The Robson and Amanda Jewitt House is one of a grouping of older buildings that define the character and extent of the historic community of Almira. It has contextual value due to its location in the centre of the hamlet of Almira, two properties to the east of the former site of the Almira Mills. The property is historically related to the site of the Almira Mills at 4160 Nineteenth Avenue, designated under By-law 2005-76, and the Almira Mill Worker’s Cottage at 4176 Nineteenth Avenue, next door to the west. At one time, all of these were part of the mill property.

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 31, Concession 5.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911.

Jewitt, Wideman and Horner family research by Fred Robbins, Stouffville Historian.

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Find-a-Grave: Robson and Amanda Jewitt – Heise Hill.

Markham Museum Archival Photograph Collection.

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Keith, Fern in *More Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania-German Folklore Society, 1985. Pages 16-18.

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The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Robson and Amanda Jewitt House is a representative example of a village dwelling in the Ontario Classic style.

The property has historical or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Robson and Amanda Jewitt House has historical or associative value as the home of Robson and Amanda Jewitt, and for its association with the Almira Mills property, an important local industry founded by Benjamin Bowman in 1844 and later owned by Samuel Boyer Lehman.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The Robson and Amanda Jewitt House is one of a grouping of older buildings that define the character and extent of the historic community of Almira. The property is historically related to the site of the Almira Mills at 4160 Nineteenth Avenue to the west, designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and the Almira Mill Worker's Cottage at 4176 Nineteenth Avenue.

RESEARCH REPORT



Justus and Mary Reynolds House **West Half Lot 10, Concession 10** **7635 Highway 7** **c.1840**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023

History

The Justus and Mary Reynolds House is located on a portion of the western half of Markham Township Lot 10, Concession 10, in the historic hamlet of Locust Hill.

Samuel Reynolds, U.E.L. (1755-1843), received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Lot 10, Concession 10, Markham Township, in 1813. He also leased Lot 9, Concession 10, from the Crown in 1803. Lot 9 was directly south of Lot 10. Samuel Reynolds and his wife, Margaret Van Rensselaer (also known as Peggy) were from Dutchess County, New York. During the American Revolution, Samuel Reynolds joined the Royal Standard with the Dutchess County Company of New York. As Loyalists, the Reynolds family first went to New York City in 1777, and then to Grand Lake, New Brunswick in 1783, having been displaced as refugees of the American Revolution. In 1779 or 1780, Samuel Reynolds petitioned the Crown for a land grant, and received Lot 10, Concession 10, Markham Township.

Samuel and Margaret Reynolds arrived in Markham Township about 1800. They were listed on William Berczy's 1803 census of Markham settlers on this property. The family included their five sons John, Azariah (also known as Asa), William, Henry, and Justus (also known as Justice, depending on the source).

In the 1830s, Samuel Reynolds sold off different parts of Lot 10, Concession 10, to his sons Azariah and Justus. Asa Reynolds purchased 50 acres, partly in the eastern half of the lot, and partly in the west, in 1832. Justus Reynolds purchased 60 acres of the eastern half of Lot 10 in 1838, and an additional 9 acres in the western half that same year. The dwelling at 7635 Highway 7 is located in a portion of the 9-acre parcel. The two parcels were not contiguous. The 60 acres were located at the far eastern end of Lot 10, while the 9 acres were notched out of the far western end of Lot 10.

William Reynolds inherited the family homestead, minus the 9 acres owned by his brother Justus, after the death of Samuel Reynolds in 1843. In 1855, William Reynolds donated an acre of land for a Wesleyan Methodist chapel and cemetery. William Reynolds also owned land in the eastern half of Lot 11, Concession 9, where an early fieldstone house still stands at 7482 Highway 7.

It may be that the two-storey frame house at 7635 Highway 7 was a later residence of Samuel and Margaret Reynolds which was intended to be passed down to their youngest son Justice. This might be why it was separated from the larger portion of the western half of Lot 10 in the late 1830s which was intended for an older son, William. A construction date of c.1840 is proposed by this research, but the dwelling, or a possible first phase of it, may be older.

Justus Reynolds was born in Nova Scotia in 1798. He married Mary Holden in 1827. Mary Holden was the Irish-born daughter of Sinclair Holden, a prominent early merchant in Markham Village, who came to Markham from Belfast, Ireland in the early 1820s and is said to have built the first house in the village. Justus and Mary Reynolds had one child, Jane, who married William Clarry and lived on Lot 20, Concession 7, north of Mount Joy after starting out in a log house on a portion of Lot 10, Concession 10.

In 1872, Justus Reynolds sold his 60 acres on the eastern half of Lot 10, Concession 10, to Albert Sinclair Clarry, a son of William and Jane (Reynolds) Clarry. The Albert Clarry House still stands at 165 Locust Hill Lane, a property within the Rouge National Urban Park.

In 1877, Justus Reynolds sold the 9-acre property containing the family home former to William Marr Button of The St. Claire Farm. According to the 1881 census, Samuel Cole, a farmer of German origin, born in New Brunswick, resided on the property. In 1885, Button sold to Jane Clarry who moved into the former Reynolds family home with five of her children after the death of her husband. In the 1891 census, the house was noted as a two storey frame building containing 8 rooms.

In 1891, Jane Clarry transferred ownership to her son, William W. Clarry. William and Sarah Clarry sold to David Dawson in 1910 who sold only two years later to Georgina Wilby. Georgina Wilby was married to Russell L. Wilby. They were long-time owners. They moved the old house back from the road and onto a new foundation after Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Georgina Wilby transferred the property to Anthony and Maria Engel in 1978.

Architecture

The Justus and Mary Reynolds House is a two-storey frame dwelling clad in mixed materials. The two-storey main block has a rectangular plan and rests on a modern concrete foundation. Within the basement, large, hewn sills and heavy log joists left in the round are visible, an indication of the structure's great age. A single-storey addition extends from the east gable end, and a small frame vestibule is located on the rear wall.

The lower half of the building has wood, board and batten siding. The upper half is clad in horizontal vinyl. The main block has a 3-bay front and is 2 bays on the west gable end. The gable roof is medium-pitched with wide, projecting, boxed eaves and wide eave returns. There are small, single-stack brick chimneys on each gable end. The chimneys are in a traditional position but have a mid-twentieth century character in terms of materials and proportions.



7635 Highway 7 – Front (north) elevation (Source: City of Markham)

The house faces north. A glazed and panelled single-leaf wood door is centred on the front wall with single-paned sidelights. The entry is sheltered by a bracketed, gable-roofed canopy that has an early twentieth century character. The door appears to be of early nineteenth century origin. On either side of the entry are wide, modern three-part windows without pane divisions, an obvious alteration that required the widening of the original window openings in this location. On the second floor there are three windows, rectangular in shape, containing modern casement windows without pane divisions. The central window looks like it is a reduced version of what was once most likely a window opening matching those on either side. On the west gable end, the window openings do

not appear to have been altered, but they all contain modern casement windows without pane divisions. The arrangement of window opening follows a formal symmetry.

When viewed from the front, the Justus and Mary Reynolds House has the appearance of a mid-twentieth century, suburban, two-storey house. The west gable end is where the early-to-mid-nineteenth century character of the building becomes apparent in the treatment of the eaves and the shape and arrangement of the windows. Prior to the present claddings, the exterior wall finish was stucco.

Originally, the design of the Justus and Mary Reynolds House was Georgian in character. Georgian houses were built throughout Markham Township from the earliest period of European and American settlement into the 1860s. Typically, these houses were constructed as replacements of older log houses erected by early settlers. This style of conservative, symmetrical domestic architecture following a standardized formula of design and proportion was based on principles established by the sixteenth century Italian architect Andrea Palladio as interpreted by British architects in the 1700s. The Georgian tradition first came to North America via Britain's New England colonies then came to Canada with the arrival of Loyalists and later British immigrants. The use of the style continued in Canada long after the Georgian period had ended. This mode of design was adaptable and versatile, readily suited to the smallest of worker's cottages to the most pretentious of residences. The aesthetic appeal of Georgian tradition houses was based on symmetry, proportion, and both quality of construction and materials rather than decorative details.

In this example, a Georgian character of formality and symmetry remains, except for the addition to the east end. The full two-storey height is an indication that this was a superior class of residence in its day when the typical Markham farmhouse was one-and-a-half storeys. The essential lines and some of the details of the c.1840 dwelling are still discernable despite the mid-twentieth century remodeling. The bracketed canopy over the front entry is indicative of the Arts and Crafts Movement popular in the early twentieth century, an interesting remnant of an intermediate stage in the building's development.

Context

The Justus and Mary Reynolds House is located in a semi-rural area to the west of the hamlet of Locust Hill. The Locust Hill United Church, an historic place of worship built in 1890 and designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (By-law 15-96), is located on the opposite side of Highway 7. The historic cemetery associated with the church is next door to the subject property to the east. This property is historically related to the William Reynolds House at 7482 Highway 7, constructed in the early nineteenth century by Justice Reynold's older brother, William.

Also on the property at 7635 Highway 7, to the west of the dwelling, there is a one-and-a-half storey frame accessory building with a gable front facing Highway 7. The building has a residential unit on the second floor. It appears to be an old structure, possibly dating from the late nineteenth century, however, it has not been closely examined to verify its age or original purpose.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Lots 9 and 10, Concession 10, and Lot 11, Concession 9.
Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891.
Directories of Markham Township: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1877).
Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860) and Historical Atlas of the County of York (1878).
Reynolds Family File, Markham Museum.
Cemetery Transcriptions, Locust Hill United Church, Markham Museum.
City of Markham Heritage Section Property Files with Research: 7635 Highway 7, 7482 Highway 7, 165 Locust Hill Lane, and 9900 Markham Road.
Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 160 and 246.
Armstrong, Mrs. R. J. "Locust Hill." *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, 1977. Pages 63 and 64.
Historical Sketch of Locust Hill United Church – Centennial 1856-1956. Page 2.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Justus and Mary Reynolds House is an altered, but locally rare example of a full two-storey frame farmhouse in the Georgian architectural tradition, dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Justus and Mary Reynolds House has historical value and associative value, representing the theme of immigration to Markham Township, particularly the arrival of United Empire Loyalists following the American Revolution, for its direct association with the Reynolds family of Dutchess County, New York.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Justus and Mary Reynolds House has contextual value for being historically linked to its location on the western edge of the historic hamlet of Locust Hill, where it has stood since c.1840. Its continued presence helps define the historic extent of Locust Hill and maintains its legibility as a community dating from the nineteenth century.

RESEARCH REPORT



Henry and Susanna Wideman House **South-east Part Lot 24, Concession 8** **10484 Ninth Line** **c.1850**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2024

History

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House at 10484 Ninth Line is located on the south-east part of Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 8. This lot was leased by the Crown to Pennsylvania-German immigrant Henry Wideman (originally spelled 'Weidman') in 1803, the year of his arrival in Markham Township. Henry Wideman (1757-1810) came from Buck's County, Pennsylvania with his wife, Catherine Van Hoben and their children. He was one of the first ordained Mennonite clergymen in Upper Canada, and the first in Markham Township. Tragically, Henry Wideman was killed by a falling tree while clearing the road allowance in front of his lot. The Wideman Church on Highway 48 was named for him.

Henry and Catherine Wideman's son, Christian Wideman, arrived in Markham Township in 1805, two years after his parents. He married Maria Kauffman. Christian Wideman received the Crown patent for the family homestead in 1824 and is listed on Lot 24 Concession 8 in Walton's Directory of 1837. Christian Wideman sold the south-

east 65 acres of Lot 24 (the location of 10484 Ninth Line) to his son Henry Wideman (1810-1871) in 1843. This Henry Wideman should not be confused with Henry Wideman Jr., the son of Henry Wideman Sr. and Catherine (Van Hoben) Wideman, who lived on Lot 28, Concession 7 in the area of Dickson Hill. In 1844, Christian Wideman sold the larger 135-acre westerly portion of the farm to Samuel Wideman, another son.

At the time of the 1851 census, farmer Henry Wideman and Susan (Lehman) Wideman, his second wife, were living in a stone house on Lot 24, Concession 8. In the same household were Catherine, Henry Wideman's 16 year old daughter from his first marriage, younger children Daniel age 9, and Peter age 6, Andrew Miller, a laborer and Matilda Hare, a servant. At the time of the 1861 census, the Wideman residence was described as a one-and-a-half storey stone house. The difference in the description of the stone house between the 1851 and 1861 census is due to enumerators for the 1851 census not always taking half storeys into account.

Henry Wideman was still living when the 1871 census was taken. He was age 60 at the time, but died that same year. His youngest son, Peter Wideman, age 24, farmed the property. In 1878, the estate of Henry Wideman assigned the farm to the London and Canada Loan and Savings Company, who sold to John McCreight in 1879. According to the 1881 census, Peter Wideman and his widowed mother Susannah continued to reside on the property. John McCreight lived on Lot 4, Concession 7, in the south east quarter of Markham Township.

John McCreight, an Irish Presbyterian immigrant, initially farmed in the north-east part of Scarborough Township. He and his Ontario-born wife, Sarah (Daniels) McCreight raised a family on a small farm located on Lot 11, Concession 5, near the present-day intersection of Steeles Avenue East and Morningside Avenue. In 1869, John McCreight purchased a 50-acre farm on the western part of Lot 8, Concession 9, Markham Township, just north of the hamlet of Box Grove. In the late 1870s, John and Sarah McCreight and several members of their family moved to Lot 4, Concession 7, a small farm located on the east side of today's McCowan Road to the north of Steeles Avenue. Their oldest son, Andrew, his brother Thomas, and sister Isabella, all unmarried, moved to the farm at Box Grove. James McCreight, another of the sons of John and Sarah McCreight, moved to the former Wideman farm at some point between the 1881 and 1891 census. James McCreight's wife was also named Sarah. John McCreight willed the farm to his son in 1892.

James M. McCreight (the son of James McCreight Sr.) and his wife Viola McCreight sold the property to Thomas J. H. Allen in 1948, after which it was owned by a series of others until 1969 when the farm was sold to real estate investors.

Architecture

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House is a one-and-a-half storey fieldstone farmhouse with a rectangular plan. The house is oriented to face south rather than Ninth Line. The foundation places the ground floor several steps above grade which provides for a basement lit by small windows. The principal entrance is contained with an

enclosed shed-roofed porch of twentieth century design. A one-storey frame side wing extends from the east gable end wall of the main block, offset to the north.

The walls are made from coursed, split random rubble. The local fieldstone consists of grey limestone, black basalt and grey and pink granite, glacial material likely gathered from the surrounding fields and stream beds. Alternating cut stone quoins decorate the corners, and red brick was used for tall splayed arches and quoin-like margins around door and window openings. The arches have a slight camber.

The medium-pitched gable roof has projecting, boxed eaves and eave returns. The wood cornice is decorated with simple, robust Classical mouldings. A shed-roofed dormer, a twentieth-century addition, is centred on the rear roof slope. There is a single-stack red brick chimney centred on the roof ridge, and an exterior single-stack red brick chimney that has been added to the east gable end wall.

The main block has a three-bay front. There is a centrally-placed single-leaf door within the enclosed porch. Flat-headed rectangular window openings with projecting concrete lugsills flank the front door and porch. The window openings are unusually wide in proportion compared with typical examples of similar stone houses from this period in Markham. Modern single-hung windows with one-over-one panes are found within these and all other window openings on the main block. Based on the age of the building, the original windows would have been multi-paned, perhaps eight-over-eight. The rear wall is also composed of three-bays, but the position of the door and flanking windows is asymmetrical. The back door has been partially bricked in and presently contains a small window high on the wall, perhaps an indication of a kitchen counter and sink.



Rear view of 100484 Ninth Line (Source: City of Markham)

Windows on the west gable end wall are regularly placed. There are two wide windows on the ground floor and two smaller windows above. On the east gable end, a single

wide window is positioned in front of where the side wing joins the wall, and two small windows, regularly placed, on the second floor.

The frame side wing is sided in clapboard and has a medium-pitched gable roof without eave returns. It appears to be a later addition, perhaps constructed in the late nineteenth century as a summer kitchen and woodshed. The windows on the side wing are flat-headed, rectangular single hung style, with two-over-two panes.

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House is a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century fieldstone farmhouse in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition, an approach to domestic architecture that continued long after the Georgian period ended in 1830. It is a modestly-scaled example of its type, with its simple form embellished with bold brick door and window surrounds, cut stone quoins, and a bold wood cornice. The large size of the ground floor windows is noteworthy. The design of the Wideman House is in keeping with the tendency of many Pennsylvania German Mennonite families to build their dwellings in the formal, conservative Georgian tradition as noted in *Markham 1793-1900*:

“The typical Pennsylvania German farmhouse, on the other hand, was Georgian in design – an even trade from English neighbours. As the Pennsylvania Germans migrated, they took with them this farmstead plan, now American rather than European, westward as far as Iowa and north into Upper Canada, so into Markham Township.”

Context

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House is located in a rural setting in the general vicinity of the historic rural community of Milnesville. The farmstead is set back a considerable distance from the road and is therefore not readily visible from Ninth Line. A tributary of Little Rouge Creek runs to the west of the dwelling, adjacent to the CN railway that is part of the Stouffville Line of GO Transit.

The bank barn associated with the farmhouse is of interest. It is a gambrel-roofed barn on a raised fieldstone foundation, fairly typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Markham, except for its weathered clapboard siding. This type of siding is indicative of an early date of construction and therefore the barn could be contemporary with the dwelling. It appears that in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, the barn was raised onto a fieldstone foundation and given a gambrel roof to replace the gable roof typical of pre-1890s barns. The vertical barnboard in the gable ends reflects the suspected modification to the original roofline.

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House is historically linked to the Samuel Wideman House on the western part of Lot 24, Concession 8 (10541 Highway 48), designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (refer to By-law 2009-21).



Barn at 10484 Ninth Line (Source: City of Markham)

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 8.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1921.

Directories of Markham Township: Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871), 1892 Directory and 1918 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860) and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Wideman and McCreight Family Files, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Property File for 10484 Ninth Line, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Champion, Isabel (ed.) *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 31, 55-56, and 147.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has physical value or design value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House has physical and design value as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century fieldstone farmhouse in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition.

The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

Fieldstone walls with cut stone quoins and red brick door and window surrounds.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House has historical value for its association with the early religious diversity of Markham Township, namely the arrival of Pennsylvania German Mennonites in the early nineteenth century, as the former residence of the Wideman family.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Henry and Susanna Wideman House has contextual value for being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses located in the general vicinity of the historic rural community of Milnesville, and because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to the farm property where it has stood since c.1850. The property is historically linked to the Samuel Wideman House at 10541 Highway 48, on the western part of Lot 24, Concession 8.

RESEARCH REPORT



Williams House

Lot 5, Plan 404

**10760 Victoria Square Boulevard, Victoria Square
c.1898**

Heritage Section

City of Markham Planning & Urban Design, 2024

History

The Williams House is located on Lot 5, Plan 404, which is on part of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 3, in the historic crossroads community of Victoria Square.

John Kennedy (also known as John Canada) received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 3, in 1805. He was noted on this property in William Berczy's 1803 census of Markham settlers.

In 1805, John Kennedy sold to Jacob Heise. Jacob Heise and his siblings Christian, Joseph, and Magdalene arrived in Markham Township in 1804. Their parents were John Heise and Barbara (Yordy) Heise of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. The Heise family belonged to a Christian sect related to the Mennonites, known by various names including Dunkards, Tunkers or River Brethren. A number of families from Pennsylvania that followed this faith settled in north-west Markham and in part of Vaughan Township in the early 1800s.

Jacob and Hannah Heise had four children: Barbara, Jacob, Abraham, and John. Jacob Heise Jr., born in Somerset, Pennsylvania, married Mary Steckley, the daughter of John

Steckley Sr., Bishop of the Tunker Church. They had several children, one of whom as Christian Heise, also known as Christopher. Christopher Heise acquired the eastern 75 acres of his father's farm on Lot 26, Concession 3, in 1867. He and his wife Leah (Rhodes) Heise lived in a brick farmhouse further west on the property that still stands at 2730 Elgin Mills Road East. Christopher Heise helped develop the northwest quarter of Victoria Square by selling lots and building houses at the crossroads.

In 1875, Christopher Heise had Public Land Surveyor Peter S. Gibson create Plan 404, a plan of building lots on a portion of the south-east corner of Lot 26, Concession 3. Some buildings had already been constructed within the area of Plan 404 by the time the plan of subdivision was created.

In 1898, Christopher and Leah Heise sold Lot 5, Plan 404 to Thomas F. Boynton, a farmer who lived on the eastern half Lot 26, Concession 2. Today that property is the site of Richmond Green, a large public park in the City of Richmond Hill.

In 1899, Thomas and Fanny Boynton sold the property in Victoria Square to Martha Williams. An increase in value between 1898 and 1899 suggests that the property had been improved during the Boynton period of ownership, therefore a date of construction of c.1898 is proposed for the existing two-storey frame dwelling at 10760 Victoria Square Boulevard. However, it is possible that the Heise family may have built the house as a speculative venture shortly before selling to Thomas F. Boynton. In any case, the design of the dwelling suggests a late nineteenth century date of construction. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, commonly referred to as MPAC, dates the building to 1900.

Martha (Bestard) Williams (1858-1952) was born in Vaughan Township. Her parents were John Bestard and Mary (Schell) Bestard. John Bestard was born in England and Mary Bestard was born in Ontario. In 1877, Martha Bestard married George Henry Williams in Vaughan. His parents were Jacob Williams and Fanny (Bride) Williams. At the time of the 1891 census, Martha was listed as Martha Bestard, a married woman, in her parents' household on Lot 32, Concession 2, Markham Township. Curiously, in the same household was labourer George Williams, a married man, and his four children. Based on the available information, it appears that there was some issue in their marriage, yet they resided in the same dwelling.

According to the 1901 census, Martha Williams was a married woman, 42 years of age, with an English background. By this time the family lived in their own household in Victoria Square. Although she was listed as married, her husband was not listed as residing in the household. It is interesting to note that her occupation was listed as "Farmer" because the property was too small to farm, and because women were not typically described as farmers in terms of occupation during this time. Four unmarried children were included in the household: Annie M., 22; John H., 20, a farm labourer; Jacob G., 18, a farm labourer; and Mary A., 16, a dress maker.

The Williams family were of the Tunker faith, an Anabaptist sect historically and doctrinally related to the Mennonites. Tunker families came to Markham Township from Pennsylvania in the early nineteenth century along with Mennonite families. They were typically Pennsylvania Germans. Martha Williams was likely a member of the Tunker church through marriage given her English background.

Martha Williams was noted in later census records as a widow. In 1941, she sold her property to Mary A. Stoutenburgh, her married daughter, for a nominal \$1.00. Mary A. Stoutenburgh died about 1952. Her executors sold the property out of the family in 1963.

Architecture

The Williams House is a two-storey frame dwelling covered in green and white aluminum siding. The nature of the earlier siding is not known as no archival photographs have been found to show the building's earlier appearance. The main block of the house has a rectangular plan with a small, enclosed porch sheltering the principal entrance. The foundation material is unknown. The medium pitched gable roof has projecting, open eaves. No historic chimneys remain.

A two-storey rear wing extends across the entire rear wall of the main block. It is mainly clad in aluminum siding except for the southern ground floor wall of a shed-roofed extension within the south-facing ell which is brick veneered. At the west end of the rear wing is a single bay attached garage with its door facing south. Since the roof peak of the rear wing is slightly higher than the roofline of the main block, this part of the dwelling appears to be a later addition that perhaps replaced an older kitchen wing.

The main block has a three-bay front on the ground floor level. The principal entrance is concealed within the enclosed porch. The porch has a shed roof with pent eaves on the sides and is entered through a door flanked by narrow sidelight on the south wall. A pair of flat-headed windows is located on the east wall of the porch facing the street. A single window is located on the north wall. The second floor of the main block has two window openings aligned above the ground floor windows. Window openings are typically tall, narrow and flat-headed. Modern replacement windows are contained within the old openings, flanked by non-functional louvered shutters. The proportions of the window openings and the period of construction suggest that the original windows likely had one-over-one panes.

On the sidewalls of the main block there are two windows centred on the walls with the ground floor and second floor window openings vertically aligned.

Windows in the rear addition are modern in proportion and contrast with the style of the window openings in the main block.

The Williams House is a representative example of a frame village dwelling of the late nineteenth century. Its sense of symmetry is rooted in the Georgian architectural tradition that continued to influence vernacular domestic architecture well past the end

of the Georgian period in 1830. The restrained design of the Williams House represents the transition of domestic architecture from the ornate designs of the late Victorian period to the simplicity that began to emerge in the Edwardian period. At one time the front porch was likely open. It may have replaced a veranda typical of the late 1890s, but any evidence of a possible veranda, if it existed, would be concealed by the aluminum siding that covers the building.

Context

Victoria Square is a former Heritage Conservation District Study Area that contains 44 properties, 22 of which are listed on the *City of Markham Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*. Of these properties, two are individually designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. A number of other properties are currently in the process of being designated.

The Williams House is one of a grouping of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character and extent of the historic crossroads hamlet of Victoria Square.

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 3.

Abstract Index of Deeds for Lot 5, Plan 404.

Canada Census 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921.

Victoria Square Heritage Conservation District – Historical Background and Inventory.

Su Murdoch Historical Consulting, 2010. Pages 14-15, 23-27, 132-133.

Find-a-Grave search for Martha Williams.

Genealogical Research by Fred Robbins, Stouffville Historian.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction.

The Williams House has design value and physical value as a representative example of a frame village dwelling of the late nineteenth century.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community

The Williams House has historical value and associative value, representing the theme of urban development, specifically the late nineteenth century development of the crossroads hamlet of Victoria Square.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The Williams House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that help to define the character and extent of the historic crossroads hamlet of Victoria Square.