

74 Robert Street _ William Tight House



Legal Description

PLAN 153 LOT 11

Description of Property

William Tight, a carpenter, built this one-and-a-half-storey Edwardian-style residence in 1917. This property, a significant part of the Louisa M. Harrison survey neighbourhood Plan 153, stands as a proud contributor to the rich heritage character of this neighbourhood.

Statement of Cultural Value and Interest

Historical Value

This property was registered as part of Plan 153, the Louisa M. Harrison survey, on January 13, 1913. On May 13, 1913, William R. Tight purchased this lot and built a frame house. William immigrated to Canada from England. He was one of the Barnardo Boys who arrived in Canada more than 100 years ago and was placed on a farm in Esquesing. William worked at the planing mill on Mill Street and was an accomplished carpenter. He also issued driver's licenses. William and his wife, Sarah Cochrane, were married in Milton in 1903. They had four children. Alice, their daughter, married George E. Elliott, who became a county judge.

After William sold the property to Albert Barton in 1916, he built a small cottage opposite the fairgrounds at 145 Robert Street. Albert was a farmer, dairy operator and inspector of service installations for the Town. He was born in 1887 in England. He married Mary Dowling in 1912. He owned a rare penny-farthing bicycle and rode it on special occasions and in various town parades. The penny-farthing bike got its name from its large front wheel likened to a penny coin and the much smaller rear wheel representing a farthing (a quarter of a penny). Albert Barton sold the property in 1920 to Matilda M. Bowman, who then sold it to Mr. John C. Eagleson in 1923. John sold the property to Herbert Elmer and Myrtle (nee Beaton) Zimmerman in the same year.

Herbert, a stonemason and bricklayer, undertook significant renovations in the mid-1950s, converting the frame house to brick and installing a proper foundation. These changes reflect the property's evolution over time.

Robert and Lori Ann Woods purchased the home in 1988. Three years later, they sold it to Jan Martinus Wegman. In 1995, James Southcott and Tamara Amabile bought this property. Tamara and James have two daughters, Tara and Rebecca. They sold it to Jodi (nee Zanatta) and Brent Cross in 2002. Jodi and Brent were raised in the Milton area, have family nearby, and still live in this house.

Physically, this two-storey Edwardian Classism-style red brick house has a medium gable roof and a brick chimney at the rear. Windows are generally one-over-one double-hung with plain mouldings. The off-centre doorway has a rare single-leaf, three-panel wooden Dutch front door with a glass insert. The original front porch has been enclosed. The two smaller windows at the front gable are also a later addition. Elmer Zimmerman likely made these changes when he renovated the house in the 1950s.

Contextually, this property, a significant part of the Louisa M. Harrison survey neighbourhood Plan 153, contributing to the rich heritage character of this neighbourhood.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that reflect the cultural heritage value of the property include:

- A single two-storey brick house with a medium gable roof with projecting eaves, plain fascia, verges and soffit.
- Single flue brick chimney.
- One-over-one windows with stone lug sills.
- Original four-panel wood Dutch front door with upper stain glass insert.
- Home of William Tight, one of the Barnardo Boys, who arrived in Canada more than 100 years ago and was placed on a farm in Esquesing.
- Contributes to the heritage character of the Louisa M. Harrison survey neighbourhood Plan 153.