



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: January 27, 2025

Report No: DS-002-25

Subject: Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate\_7781 Old Tremaine Road\_ William Cumming House

**Recommendation:** **THAT** Staff Report DS-002-25 entitled: "Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate\_7781 Old Tremaine Road\_ William Cumming House be received and;

**THAT** Council recognizes the historic house at 7781 Old Tremaine Road in the Town of Milton as being of heritage significance;

**THAT** Council designate the property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 for the reasons outlined in the Reasons for Designation attached as Appendix 1 to this Report;

**AND THAT** the Town Clerk provides the Notice of Intention to Designate as outlined in Section 29 (4) of the Ontario Heritage Act;

**AND FURTHER THAT** once the thirty-day objection period has expired and if there are no objections, a designation by-law is brought forward for Council adoption.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The one-and-a-half storey stone dwelling on the southeast corner of Old Tremaine Road and Steeles Avenue was built in 1851 for William Cumming. In 1974, John and Valerie Grimshaw advocated for conserving this historical home and rebuilt the house after it was damaged by fire.
- The property's current owner has voluntarily responded to the heritage designation program and desires that their property be designated.
- Staff has evaluated this historic home as a significant built heritage resource for the Town of Milton and should be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. (See Appendix '1')

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This significant heritage resource fulfils more than two of the evaluation criteria set out in Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990), Ontario Regulation 9/06 (See Appendix 2). As such, it is worthy of designation under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

## REPORT

### Background

The one-and-a-half storey stone dwelling on the southeast corner of Old Tremaine Road and Steeles Avenue was built in 1851 for William Cumming. Valerie and John Grimshaw restored the house after it was damaged by fire in 1974. Megan Pallet and Nick Collins currently reside at this property. It was occasionally used as a private site for University of Toronto students conducting ecological studies. Contextually, this is one of the few remaining houses that serve to remind us of the settlement history of Old Tremaine Road.

### Discussion

Historically, William Cumming obtained the west half of Lot 15 from the Crown on December 31, 1840. The Canada Census for 1851 describes it as a log dwelling but also as a stone building, likely because the stone building was under construction. The property was passed on to William's son John Cumming in November 1877. John continued to farm the land until March 1881, when the property was sold to Elijah Dixon. In August 1898, William Reid purchased the property. Then Duncan, a brother of William, continued the Reid family ownership of the property. In June 1955, Duncan's wife, Martha Reid, sold the property to Anthony Carroll, a World War II veteran. Anthony sold it to Valerie Grimshaw in May 1974. Valerie was a past president of the Milton Historical Society.

When Valerie and John Grimshaw discovered this property, it had been severely damaged by fire in the early 1970s. They rebuilt the old stone dwelling, naming it "Stonefield". Valerie was a columnist with Don Mills Mirror and an advocate for preserving and conserving historical homes. She was also the past president of the Milton Historical Society in 1982.

In July 1987, Megan Pallett purchased the property and continued living in this house with Nick Collins, her husband. Megan was a zoologist turned legal counsel. Nick is an Associate Professor Emeritus of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto

Physically, this Regency-style stone house has a medium hip roof, protruding eaves and a plain soffit. The front west elevation has a balanced, symmetrical five-bay front faced with stone cut to courses and random course fieldstone on the other elevations. The central

## Discussion

entrance has double stone steps with a single-leaf, four-panel front door with molded trims, side lite and rectangular transom. The six-over-six windows have plain trims, stone lug sills and lintels. The concrete silo on the property has an inscription indicating that it was built in 1914 and that Duncan Reid and John Mitchell were the builders.

Contextually, this is one of the few remaining houses that continues to remind us of the area's settlement history. It was one of Valerie Grimshaw's advocacy projects for preserving and conserving historical houses in Milton.

## Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

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

- A one-and-a-half storey stone building on course rubble stone foundation with a medium gable roof with projecting eaves and plain soffit
- Course stone works at West Elevation and random stone works at North, South and East Elevation
- Two stone chimneys at gable ends
- Six over six windows with plain moldings, stone lintels and lug sills
- Four-panel front door with molded trims, side lite and rectangular transom
- Dated stone on silo 1914 Duncan Reid and John Mitchell Builder

## Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan  
Commissioner, Development Services

For questions, please contact: Anthony Wong, Senior Policy  
Planner

Phone: Ext. 2565



## Attachments

- Appendix '1'\_Reasons for Designation \_ 7781 Old Tremaine Road\_ William Cumming House
- Appendix '2'\_CHVI evaluation of \_7781 Old Tremaine Road\_ William Cumming House
- Appendix '3'\_Photographic Record Heritage Attributes\_ 7781 Old Tremaine Road\_ William Cumming House

Approved by CAO  
Andrew M. Siltala  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.