

7781 Old Tremaine Road



Legal Description

Part Lot 15, Concession 1, New Survey, Trafalgar Township

Description of Property

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.

Statement of Cultural Value and Interest

Historical Value

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

Physical or Design Value

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 entrance has double stone steps with a single-leaf, four-panel front door with moulded 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.

Contextual Value

Contextually, this is one of the few remaining houses along 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 mouldings, stone lintels and lug sills
- Four-panel front door with moulded trims, side lite and rectangular transom
- Dated stone on silo 1914 Duncan Reid and John Mitchell Builder