



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: April 28, 2025

Report No: DS-021-25

Subject: Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate_ 9228 First Line_ Samuel May House

Recommendation: **THAT** Staff Report DS-021-25 entitled: "Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate_9228 First Line_ Samuel May House be received;

THAT Council recognizes the historic house at 9228 First Line 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

- Samuel May built this one-and-a-half-storey log house around 1861. Alexander Young Jackson, a founding member of the Group of Seven, painted in this house. Canadian journalist Isobel LeBourdais was a former owner and wrote the book "The Trial of Stephen Truscott" in this log house.
- 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')
- 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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appendix 2). As such, it is worthy of designation under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

REPORT

Background

Samuel May built this one-and-a-half-storey log house around 1861. Alexander Young Jackson, a well-known Canadian painter and a founding member of the Group of Seven, painted in the studio of this house. Canadian journalist Isobel LeBourdais, daughter of Frank and Isobel Brown, wrote the book "The Trial of Stephen Truscott" while living in this log house. This house is one of the few remaining early settlement houses in Nassageweya and continues to remind us of the settlement history of this historic Township.

Discussion

In 1835, Jeremiah Hirst, who served with the 4th Battalion of the Royal Artillery from Yorkshire, England, and his wife Mary nee Hudson, took out the Crown grants for the 100 acres in the east half of Lot 7 Con 1. Jeremiah's son, James, bought the property in 1854 and sold it the next year to Francis Campbell, who in turn sold it to Samuel May in 1861.

Samuel and his wife built their house on this lot around 1861. They had two sons, Thomas and Robert. Thomas inherited the farm in 1881. His son George Franklin (Frank) worked on the farm with him and eventually took ownership in 1935.

Frank May married Annie James, and they had ten children. Frank was a genius at making and repairing farm equipment and machinery. He invented a gas-driven drag-saw which he mounted on a horse-drawn wagon and took around the neighbourhood to cut wood. He also designed an elaborate gate of entwined roots and erected it at the entrance to this property. This artistic gate was moved to the Halton Regional Museum.

In 1935, Frank May sold the log house and about 3 acres to Frank Erischen Brown. Frank Brown and his wife Isabel used it as a summer cottage until 1963. During that time, Alexander Young Jackson, Mr. Brown's cousin, a well-known Canadian painter and a founding member of the Group of Seven, painted in the studio that Mr. Brown had built beside the house. Canadian journalist Isabel LeBourdais, daughter of Frank and Isabel Brown, wrote the book "The Trial of Stephen Truscott" while living in this log house.

Discussion

Isabel inherited and sold the property to Ralph and Moira Berquist in 1965. Subsequently, the property was sold to John and June Gardiner (1966), Jacobite Edgewater Kennels Ltd. (1967), Robert and Suzanne Appleford (1967). During the Appleford's ownership, the entire upper storey, flooring and some beams were damaged by an electrical fire. John and Margaret Pirrie bought the property in 1968 and made extensive repairs and restorations to the house. The current owners are Wayne and Judith Howard.

Physically, this modest vernacular one-and-a-half-storey log house has a simple rectangular plan and a medium gable roof. Single-flue stone and brick chimneys are located on the east and west sides of the house. The cottage is adorned with six over six windows on the upper floor and pairs of eight-lite windows with four-lite transom and wooden shutters on the ground floor. A one-storey random stone studio was added to the original house in the 1940s. It has a medium slope gable roof and nine lite windows.

Contextually, this house is one of the few remaining early settlement houses in Nassageweya and continues to remind us of the settlement history of this historic Township.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

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

- Original massing of the one-and-a-half-story log house with rectangular plan and medium gable roof
- Original massing of the attached one-storey stone studio with medium gable roof.
- Original hand-sawn wood rafter in the interior
- Original wood flooring in the interior
- Single flue stone and brick chimneys located at the east and west elevation
- Six over six windows on the upper floor
- Pairs of eight lite windows with a four lite transom and wooden shutters on the ground floor
- Nine light windows in the studio
- Studio of Alexander Young Jackson, Canadian artist and a founding member of the Group of Seven
- Studio of Isabel LeBourdais, author of the book "The Trial of Stephen Truscott"
- The last remaining log house in the settlement history of Nassageweya, which was home to the early pioneer Samuel May.



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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 _ 9228 First Line

Appendix '2'_CHVI evaluation of _9228 First Line

Appendix '3'_Photographic Record Heritage Attributes_9228 First Line

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.