

Statement of Significance

Legal Description:

Lot 31 Block 7 of Foster Survey (Plan No.7), Town of Milton, Regional Municipality of Halton

Description of Property

The Edwin Earl House is a one and a half storey frame house that is a good representative example of vernacular mid-Victorian domestic architecture fronting onto Victoria Square.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The subject property is known as the Edwin Earl house and was built circa 1874. Its cultural heritage value lies in its architectural and design significance as a representative example of mid-Victorian domestic architecture with Greek Revival detailing. It has historical and associative significance as the home of Edwin Earl, a former Milton Mayor, Halton County Reeve and prominent local businessman as well as being of minor provincial significance as having been owned by Joseph H. Robinson a prominent member of the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connection Church. This property also has contextual significance as one of the original lots created in Hugh Foster's 1854 plan of subdivision that includes Victoria Park and the Courthouse square in the centre of Milton's historic downtown and because it contributes to the streetscape that frames this important historical park.

Design Value or Physical Value.

The Edwin Earl house is a good representative example of vernacular mid-Victorian domestic architecture. It was likely built c. 1874. The house has a three bay facade on the ground floor and originally had two windows above. One window was later converted into a door when the second floor sun room/sleeping porch was added in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. Most of the window and door openings are original and they include slightly pedimented heads that reflect the influence of the Greek Revival style architecture. Almost all of the original exterior form of this house and many of its original internal features remain.

Historical Value

Edwin Earl owned the house at 111 Mary Street from 1891 until his death in 1931. He was a tinsmith and plumber by trade and held a very prominent and active position in the local community. He was a member of the United Church and served as:

- Second Vice-President of the Halton Liberal Association (1907)

- Fire Chief (1894-1900 & 1901-1930)
- Town Councillor {1893-1896 & 1899-1900}
- Reeve of Milton (1913)
- Halton County Warden (1913)
- Vice-President of the Milton Baseball Club (1897)
- Treasurer of Halton Probation Association (1899)
- Chaplain of the Independent Order of Foresters (1901)
- Inspector of Waterworks Department for Milton (1901-1908)
- Treasurer of the Halton District Council of the Royal Templars of Temperance (1901)
- President of the Milton Mechanics Institute (1902)
- Assessor for Milton (1904-1905)
- Board member of Milton Board of Health (1907-1907)
- Member of Railways and Legislation Committee of the Milton Board of Trade (1912)
- Milton Hydro Commission (1914)
- Mayor of Milton (1917-1921)

This property also has some minor provincial significance due to its association with the Reverend Joseph H. Robinson. Rev. Robinson bought the property from Hugh Foster and his wife in 1855. This was shortly after Hugh Foster had registered the subdivision that is now known as the Foster Survey. Rev. Robinson was a prominent member of the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connection Church and travelled widely, especially between Ottawa and London. Milton is conveniently located stopping point between these two cities but it is unclear whether Rev. Robinson ever lived in the house that currently exists at 111 Mary Street or whether this house was built after he sold the property in 1874.

Contextual Value

This property has contextual value as one of the original lots formed by the Foster Survey (Plan No. 7) in 1854. This was one of the very early subdivisions in Milton that were created even before Milton was incorporated as a Town in 1857. The Foster Survey included the Halton County Courthouse and Victoria Park. The house and property help to define, maintain and support the character of the Courthouse square and Victoria Park. This house is one of the original buildings facing onto Victoria Square and is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key heritage attributes important to the preservation of the Edwin Earl house at 111 Mary Street are the following character-defining elements/heritage attributes:

- Location of house in Mary Street opposite Victoria Park.

- The original form, rooflines and massing of the one and a half storey house exterior (with the exception of the rear single storey porch).
- Original wood cladding (with horizontal orientation and V-groove joint).
- Original window and door elements of the original house (front and sides of the main block and kitchen tail) including their pedimented heads.
- Front porch, enclosed upper sleeping porch and side bay window
- Window sash locks with patent date of "1874".