



Figure 1 Front Elevation as seen from King Street

Legal Description

Part 1 of Lot 15, Concession 6, (Geographic Township of Nassagaweya), Town of Milton, Regional Municipality of Halton.

Description of Property

The Thomas Ford House is a one-and-a-half-storey frame house that is an excellent representative example of an Ontario-style Victorian Gothic Revival house.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest

The subject property is known as the Thomas Ford house and was built circa 1888. Its cultural heritage value lies in its architectural and design significance as a representative example of Ontario Style Victorian architecture with Gothic Revival detailing. It also has historical and associative significance as the home of Thomas Ford and his family. This property also has contextual importance as one of the original lots created in Hugh Foster's 1854 plan of subdivision in Milton's historic downtown.

Design Value or Physical Value

The Thomas Ford house is an excellent representative example of vernacular Victorian domestic architecture. It was built in 1888. This house is one of Milton's best examples of a distinctive Ontario style of Victorian Gothic Revival house. It is similar to the "Ontario House" or "Ontario Cottage" that was widely publicized in magazines, such as the "Canadian Farmer" magazine in the mid-19th Century.

Towards the latter half of the 19th Century, the roof of these houses became steeper to allow for more living space on the second floor. The gothic Revival style of architecture in Canada developed from the inclusion of Gothic inspired features on otherwise Georgian-style houses. They were particularly popular with immigrants

from Great Britain in the mid-to-late 1800s. Milton has many examples, including ones constructed of brick and stone. They were popular because including the second floor within the roof saved the owner from paying the additional tax levied on two-storey houses.

Gothic Revival-style houses such as this are characterized by a central gable above the main entrance door at the front of the house.

The gable dormer for this house included an arched or lancet window with associated trim to emphasize its peak. It is the arched form that referenced details of the medieval Gothic style of architecture, which gave rise to its name Gothic Revival style of architecture.

Historical Value

Thomas Ford owned the house at 76 King Street from 1888 until his death in 1940. Thomas Ford was born in 1861 near Nelson Village, Nelson Township, in the county of Halton, and died on January 7, 1940. He married Christina McEachern, born in 1868 in the township of Erin. She died on February 26, 1925, and they are both interred in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. The Fords raised seven children in this historic home. Their children were Thomas Elgin, John Alexander, Neil Gordon, Margaret Marie, Russell Andrew, Mary Christina and Milton Eric.

Christina and Thomas were members of Knox Presbyterian Church. Thomas was a teamster who drove a dray wagon working for Henry Peacock and Palmer Book. He made door to door goods deliveries. He also met all passenger trains for an express company.

Following the death of Christina and Thomas, the home was registered in 1954 to their son Neil Gordon Ford Sr. and his wife Irene (Evans). Neil Sr. was born in 1897 and died on July 8, 1961. Irene was born in 1904 and died on January 22, 1955. Both are interred in Evergreen Cemetery. Irene was a homemaker, while Neil Sr. worked at the P. L. Robertson Screw Factory. They raised their family in this heritage home. Their children were Neil Gordon Jr., Mary Anne and Norma.

In 1968 the home passed to the third generation of the Ford family. Neil Jr. and his wife, Margaret "Barbara" (nee Tasker, February 4, 1934 - December 19, 1994), were married May 5, 1961. They raised three children here as well. Their children were Rhonda Leeann, Mark Neil Thomas and John Andrew. Barbara was a home-maker and community volunteer and loved to knit homemade sweaters, mittens and the like for the church. She was the daughter of Olive (nee Peacock, June 9, 1903 to January 11, 1988) and Harold Tasker (May 5, 1892 to August 12, 1967).

Neil worked for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing as a heat treater until his retirement. He had also worked as a stone mason and roofer at P. L. Robertson Screw Factory.

Neil was also president of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association, which hosts the Steam Era Show and was instrumental in hosting a successful Rumely Collectors Reunion at Milton. He was very involved as a member of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association. Neil and his sons, John and Mark, were mainstays of the Milton Steam Era show at the old fairgrounds. They had a beautifully restored set of Oil Pull tractors, from the Model L to the Model F.

Today Mark, his wife, Marnie, and their daughter, Emily, reside in this heritage home, representing the fourth generation of the Ford family to own this home.

Contextual Value

This property has contextual value as one of the earliest houses built in 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 define, maintain and support the character of Courthouse square and Victoria Park character.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

Key heritage attributes vital to the preservation of the Thomas Ford house at 76 King Street are the following character-defining elements/heritage attributes:

- The original form, rooflines and massing of the one-and-a-half-storey house exterior (except for the addition).
- Medium Gable roof with central façade gable
- Gable Dormer with arched or lancet window with associated trim
- Open veranda with moulded wood trim and Doric piers.
- Central three-panel entrance door with shaped glass and thin wood trim
- Two over two windows with trims on the front facade
- Original wood cladding (with horizontal orientation and V-groove joint)
- Double Hung pine windows and door elements of the original house (front and sides of the main block), including their pedimented heads.