



## Legal Description

Block 10, Lot 2, Plan 15, Martin Survey

## Description of Property

168 Martin Street is a two-storey brick house that fronts onto Martin Street. The house was built by Thomas Coxe in 1894. It is an excellent example of a Victorian-era Neo-Gothic style house.

## Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest

### Historical or Associative Value

Historically, the lot was first registered to John Martin in 1856. It went through several owners until it was sold to Thomas Coxe in May 1893 but was only registered in May 1894. Mr. Coxe was a member of the Esquesing Township Council before moving to Milton on Jan 14, 1922, where he became the Town Councillor, serving from 1924 to 1934 except 1926. He was also a lumber dealer and retained one of the last sawmills in the area until about 1930; along with the lumber business, he sold firewood to residents and industries. Several other properties were built on his initiative. He was responsible for two large brick residences on the west side of Court Street North in 1907. One of his masterpieces, however, was the new home he built for his family on the south corner of Martin and Woodward Street in 1921. He also built the same size plan of a house on his sawmill farm in Esquesing Township. After losing his wife, he sold his property in 1900 to the Coates family.

### Physical or Design Value

Physically, the two-story brick house is a good representation of the Victorian-era Neo-Gothic style house. It has a cross-gable roof with three brick chimneys. The front elevation features decorative gable pediments and barge boards. The paired windows are tall one-over-one wood windows with moulded trims, topped with unique segmented arch brick headers with protruding extrados. Ornamental wooden shutters flank the right and left sides of the paired windows on the ground and second floor. The exterior running bond bricks are likely from the Milton brickyard. The side porch entrance features an ornate timber post design and fretworks. The interior of this house was featured in the 1984 summer edition of the Canada Century Home magazine in an article entitled Turn of the Century Transformation written by Elizabeth Ingolfsrud. The article described the many antique furniture pieces in this house. An attached garage and rear addition were added to the house in 2007, and a side addition was made in 2012. These additions are tastefully done, and the design is sympathetic to the original house..

### Contextual Value

Contextually, this property contributes to the heritage character of Martin Street, published in the Toronto Star review by Christopher Hume on Jul 4, 2009, as one of the top three streets to live on in Toronto.

### Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

- A two-storey brick Victorian-era Neo-Gothic style house with three single-stack brick chimneys
- Cross gable roof with decorative pediments and barge board
- One-over-one tall windows with flanking shutters, segmented arch brick headers with protruding extrados, and plain stone lug sill.
- Off-centered entrance with open ornate front porch with decorated timber post and fretworks
- Single leaf three-panel door with transom and moulded trims
- Home of Thomas Coxe, former Milton Councillor and lumber dealer.
- A historical house that contributes to the Martin Street character