



Legal Description

Lot 31, Concession 3, NE ½, Nassagaweya

Description of Property

This one-and-a-half-story Ontario Cottage Style stone house was built around 1854-56 by Henry Burrows. The original stone house has been well maintained, with many of the original details still intact. The entire masonry joints of the house were repointed in 2023 with historically accurate lime mortar.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest

Physical Value

Physically, the one-and-a-half-storey building has a random rubble stone exterior, medium cross-gable cedar roof, and three stone chimneys. A stone date indicates the built date as 1856. The gable and gothic window on the tail end of the house were added around 1984. The open porch on the northwest side was constructed in 1996. In 2014, a new cedar shingle roof on the entire house was completed and the central gable and gothic window were added. The wood siding on the existing closed-in porch and rear entrance was built approximately in 2016. Many of the windows on the first floor are original. All new windows are two-sash wood, six over six, to match the original ones. All new exterior wood and trim were made to match the existing trim. The five-panel front door was reproduced with a new pediment surround.

The interior heritage elements include the original splayed windows with decorative wood mouldings and panels. The pine floors in the front and maple floors in the tail of the house are originals. This house retains the original baseboards, the dado rail in the tail end of the house, and the storage pantry. The interior walls are plastered, and some original plaster work is still evident.

Historical Value

Historically, the original land grant of 100 acres was granted to Henry Burrow in 1858. The Burrows family owned the property until 1886. Henry Burrows was one of the first settlers in the County of Halton, taking up land near Eden Mills, Lot 31, Concession 3, corner of Guelph Line and 30th Sideroad. He was born in Nassagaweya Township in 1831 and died at 76 in June 1907.

From 1908 to 1929, the property was owned by John and Henrietta Wright. They are buried in the Eden Mills Cemetery. John finished the basement floor in cement, as attested by an inscription that reads "JLWRIGHT 1913". John Wright was a Foreman at Auto Electric. The property was passed on to their children, Wilbert and George Wright, who farmed the property from 1929. George and Wilbert sold their parts of the property in 1945 and 1946.

The most notable owner and resident of this property was Lady Joan Roberts. She was the second wife and widow of Sir Charles G.D. Roberts. G.D. Roberts is sometimes known as the "Father of Canadian Poetry." As such, he inspired the works of other poets of his generation, including Bliss Carman, Archibald Lampman, and Duncan Campbell Scott. Lady Roberts bought the property in 1964 and lived here until 1972. She sold it to Robert and Dorothy Wood in 1972 who then sold it to Robert and Mary Carley in 1978.

The house was named Tantramar when the current owners first moved here in 1978. While still a university undergraduate, Robert Carley, took a course in Canadian Literature. He studied several Canadian poets and writers, such as Bliss Carmen and G.D. Roberts. G.D. Robert's poem "Tantramar Revisited" resonated with him. The poem spoke about how one can return to a place of their youth. At first glance, nothing has changed; however, a further look reveals that change has occurred. The poem speaks of the marshes of Tantramar, which is likened to the pond and marshy area of this property. The description of the Tantramar marshes in the poem was perfect; hence, the Carleys decided to call their place Tantramar. Subsequently they found out (some years later) that Sir Charles G.D. Robert's widow, Lady Joan Roberts, the widow of the poet who wrote Tantramar Revisited, lived at this house. She was well known in the community for her love of animals and cared for quite a menagerie while she was here

Contextual Value

Contextually, the original house contributes to the heritage character of the early settlements and agricultural history of Nassagaweya. The property is depicted as one of the earliest houses that was built in this area as shown in the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

- One-and-a-half-storey random stone Ontario Cottage Style building.
- Medium cross gable roof with projecting eaves and plain fascia
- Three single-stack stone chimneys
- Original two sash, six-over-six windows with plain wood trim, stone lintels and stone lug sills
- Single leaf five, panels wood entrance door with decorated wood pediment
- Interior splayed windows with wood trim, decorative mouldings, and panels
- Original pine floors are in the front of the house, and original Maple floors are in the tail.
- Original baseboards and the dado rail in the tail and storage pantry.
- 1856 Date Stone
- Basement Floor inscription that reads "JLWRIGHT 1913".