

Reasons for Designation

193 Queen Street_ New Connexion Methodist



Legal Description

Foster Survey, Block 11, Lot 4

Description of Property

This unique two-story Victorian Gothic-style structure was built in 1856 and converted into a residence in 1877.

Its cultural heritage value and interest lie in its physical, historical, and contextual value. Physically, it is an excellent example of a two-story Victorian Gothic-style horizontal clapboard siding building with a unique twin cross-gables roof and a gable dormer. Historically, it was the first place of worship for the New Connexion Methodists Church and the Home of John Hunter, carpenter, builder, mill owner, and Town Councillor. Contextually, this property is one of the earliest structures built in the Foster Neighbourhood Plan for this significant part of Old Milton.

Statement of Cultural Value and Interest

Historical Value

Historically, the congregation of the New Connexion Methodists erected this two-story structure as a sacred place of worship in 1856. Twelve years later, the congregation temporarily relocated to the Old Town Hall on 252 Main Street East as the building needed improvements. In 1877, at a church conference in London, Ontario, the denomination decided to join the Wesleyan Methodists, located on 123 Main Street, now Saint Paul's United. The same year, John Hunter bought this building and converted it into a home for his wife, Mary (Fletcher) and daughter, Charlotte.

John grew up in Ashgrove, northeast of Milton, where his father operated a store/ hotel called the Drake House. After training as a carpenter in Cleveland, he moved to Milton and formed a construction firm with his partner, John Ezard. They became the predominant contractors in the late 1800s, building many houses, including the Knox Presbyterian Church. In 1878, Hunter and Ezard with their business partner Appleby purchased the Milton Steam Sash and Blind factory on Mill Street, as illustrated in the 1877 Atlas of Halton County. John served on the Town Council from 1877 to 1879 and 1884 to 1888. He died in 1923.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the home was sold to pay for taxes. For the past 25 years, the house was the home of Andy Hartholt and his family. He bought the house from his father-in-law, Gus Tielemans. A native of Holland, Andy farmed near Cornwall, Ontario, before moving to Milton. They furnished their home with items original to the period.

Physical or Design Value

Physically, this two-story Victorian Gothic-style horizontal clapboard siding building has a unique twin cross-gables roof and a gable dormer. Two original one-storey bay windows at the front façade are still retained. Above the recessed entrance is a gable dormer with a door and balcony.

The property was significantly renovated in 2020, and most of the original windows and doors were replaced. However, the house retains its massing and form. The new owner has conserved most of the original hand-hewn beams, rafters and posts, which are now exposed in the interior

Contextual Value

Contextually, this house contributes to the heritage character of the Foster Survey neighbourhood (Plan 7), as one of the earliest structure built in this neighbourhood, and provides a link to the formation of this neighbourhood.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

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

- Two-story Victorian Gothic-style structure with horizontal clapboard siding
- Massing of the structure with a twin cross-gable roof
- Recessed entrance with gable dormer above
- One-storey bay windows at the front elevation
- Exposed hand-hewn timber beam at the ground and second floor
- Original timber rafters and posts exposed in the interior
- The first place of worship for the New Connexion Methodists Church and the Home of John Hunter, carpenter, builder, mill owner, and Town Councillor.
- A building by John Hunter and John Ezard who were prominent contractors in the late 1800s.
- Context of the building in the formation of the Foster Neighbourhood, Plan 7.