

Reasons for Designation

11017 Guelph Line_ Robert Meade House



Legal Description

Nassagaweya CON 4 PT LOT 16

Description of Property

Robert Meade likely built this house in 1863. It was one of the earliest houses constructed in Haltonville, then known as Sodom in Nassagaweya Township.

Its cultural heritage value and interest lie in its physical, historical, and contextual value. Physically, it is a representative one-and-a-half-storey Ontario Cottage-style house with a low hip roof. Historically, it was the home of Dr. Letitia Sirrs-Meade, the first woman doctor in Haltonville. Contextually, this property contributes to the character of Haltonville.

Statement of Cultural Value and Interest

Historical Value

Robert bought the property from James McNain's wife in 1863 and likely built the house shortly after. He and his wife Mary had five children: John, Letitia, Hugh, Robert and Thomas.

Mary Meade, passed the house on to her daughter, Letitia Meade, in 1912. Letitia was a school teacher for seven years before starting a medical career. When Letitia graduated in 1891 with her Master of Surgery, she was one of 18 pioneer women doctors in Ontario. She returned to her family home and established her practice as the first woman doctor in Haltonville. The house was also known as the medical professor's home in Nassagaweya Township. She married George Sirrs, a farmer, in 1893.

In 1919, Dr. Letitia left her practice to live in Walkersville, Ontario. The property was left to her only son, Elmer Jefferson Sirrs, who passed away in 1957. It was sold to Bartison G Day in 1959, John Harris Gordon (1961), Dorothy Jean Forbes (1972), Derrick Scott (1972), Elte Lathing Limited, Richard Foster in 1975, and eventually to the present owners, Jennifer Flannigan and Bryce Black.

Physical or Design Value

This simple one-and-a-half-storey Ontario Cottage-style house has a low hip roof and protruding eaves. It was renovated and received new aluminum siding, but the original house's single-flue brick chimney and four-over-four windows are still intact.

Contextual Value

This property has contextual value as one of the original settlement houses built in Haltonville. This home is shown on the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton County.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

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

- Massing of the historical one and a half storey medium hip roof house with protruding eaves
- Four over four windows with plain trims and stone lug sills
- Single flue brick chimney
- Historical home of Dr. Letitia Kean Sirrs nee Meade, one of 18 pioneer women doctors in Ontario and the first female doctor in Haltonville.
- Context of the house in the settlement history of Haltonville as shown in the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton County