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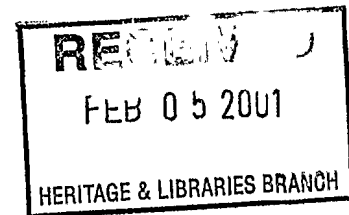
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

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January 26, 2001

Fred Cane, Heritage Conservation Officer
Heritage and Libraries Branch
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
400 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9



Dear Mr. Cane:

Re: Ontario Heritage Properties Database

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 12, 2001 respecting the above-noted matter. By way of a copy of this letter, I am requesting that our Heritage Researcher, Ms. Angela Palermo, respond directly to your request.

I trust this will be satisfactory.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. LEACH
City Clerk

CC: J. Epstein
A. Palermo

York

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

RECEIVED
MAY 15 1998

BY-LAW

BY-LAW NUMBER 127-98

A By-law to designate the William Farr House, located on property known municipally as 7985 Kipling Avenue, Part of Lot 4, Plan 385, in the City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, in the Province of Ontario, as being of architectural and historical value or interest.

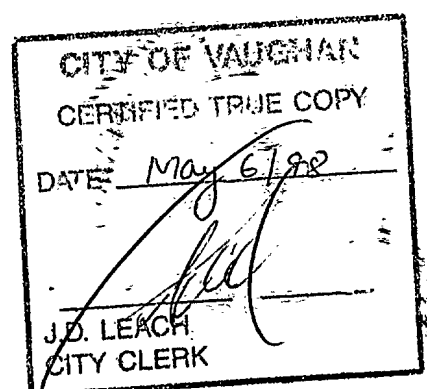
WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and/or historical value or interest; and,

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan has caused to be served on the owner of the lands and premises known as the William Farr House, 7985 Kipling Avenue, Part of Lot 4, Plan 385, , in the City of Vaughan, in the Regional Municipality of York, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto; and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notice of Intention to designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality; and


WHEREAS no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality:

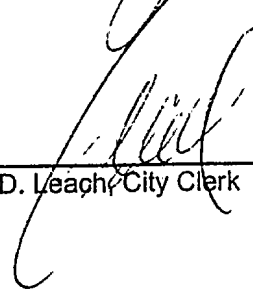
NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the property known as the William Farr House, 7985 Kipling Avenue, Part Lot 4, Plan 385, in the City of Vaughan, in the Regional Municipality of York, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. The reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
3. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A", attached hereto, in the proper Land Registry Office.
4. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the Owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper in which Notice of Intention to so designate was published.



READ a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD time and finally passed this 27th day of April, 1998.



L.D. Jackson, Mayor

J.D. Leach, City Clerk

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 127-98

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS

Part Lot 4, Plan 385 as in Instrument No. R451457 (PIN 033-00-0150 (R)).

WILLIAM W. FARR HOUSE, 7985 KIPLING AVENUE, WOODBRIDGE

SHORT REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act is recommended for the William W. Farr House for the structure's historical and architectural significance.

William W. Farr was a member of the first Village of Woodbridge Council in 1882 and served subsequent terms on Council from 1885 to 1892. For most of his life William W. Farr farmed Lot 5, Concession 9 in the Township of Vaughan. In the later part of the 19th century he retired to live in the house at 7985 Kipling Avenue. Residing in the Village of Woodbridge, he participated extensively in community life, most notably as Village of Woodbridge council member, as President of the Vaughan Agricultural Society, and later the Woodbridge Agricultural Society.

The William W. Farr House was constructed ca. 1880s in the ell-shaped plan, an architectural style popular during the late Victorian period. This house design is found in several structures along Kipling Avenue built during the Woodbridge housing "boom" of the 1880s, in particular, the several houses constructed along Kipling Avenue during this period.

Typical of the ell-shaped house of the time, the overall plan of the house is asymmetrical in design. Examples of this irregular design include the off-centred main entranceway at the facade, evidence of a porch once found along the inner walls of the ell plan, and a second storey doorway located above the main entranceway of the house.

WILLIAM FARR HOUSE 7985 KIPLING AVENUE, WOODBRIDGE

WILLIAM FARR & FAMILY

William W. Farr was a member of the first Village of Woodbridge Council in 1882 and served subsequent terms on Council from 1885 to 1892. For most of his life William W. Farr farmed Lot 5, Concession 9 in the Township of Vaughan. In the later part of the 19th century he retired to live in the house at 7985 Kipling Avenue (the subject of this report). Residing in the Village of Woodbridge, he participated extensively in community life, most notably as Village of Woodbridge council member, as President of the Vaughan Agricultural Society, and later the Woodbridge Agricultural Society.

William W. Farr was born in the Township of Chinguacousy, County of Peel in 1830. His father, James Farr, emigrated from Weston, Hertfordshire, England, to a small village along the west branch of the Humber River. James and his brother John Farr operated mills in the village of Weston (today Lawrence Avenue and Weston Road) until their milling operation was sold in 1828.¹

After leaving Weston, James Farr and his wife Nancy Wilcox moved to the County of Peel. They stayed in Peel until 1831, a year after their first son William was born. They later moved to Vaughan Township where James Farr purchased the east half of Lot 5, Concession 9. James Farr died in 1846 leaving the management of the subject farm to his wife Nancy and his young son William.

In 1850, at the age of twenty, William married Elizabeth (Eliza) Fletcher. Two years later, Elizabeth Fletcher died at age twenty-two most likely giving birth to a

son, William T. (see partial family tree). Shortly after his wife's death, William married Sarah Williams, the daughter of John Williams, a neighbour who lived across the ninth concession road. Together, William and Sarah raised four children, only two of which would live to adulthood.

Similar to other residences built on Kipling Avenue in the 1880s, the subject house was purchased as a "retirement" home for William Farr and his family. The 1891 Census indicates that William Farr still retained ownership of his farm in 1891. The same Census records, however, indicates that the entire Farr family, including the Farr's youngest child Arthur, lived in the Kipling Avenue house. William Farr had two employees at this time, likely working on the Concession 9 farm along with his son Arthur Farr who was listed on the 1891 Census as a farm labourer. This "absentee farmer" status was a common trend in Woodbridge at the time. In analyzing the reasons for this trend, it can be assumed village life provided benefits to the local farmer which were not found in rural areas such as a more comprehensive education for his children and a more extensive social and cultural life for the entire family.

Arthur Farr, William's youngest and only surviving son, would take over the management of the family farm after his marriage to Agnes Watson. The family farm on Concession 9 was sold to Frank Troyer in 1923. The house at 7985 Kipling Avenue remained in the Farr family until the early half of the 20th Century.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The William W. Farr House was constructed ca. 1880s in the ell-shaped plan, an architectural style popular during the late Victorian period. This house design is found in several structures along Kipling Avenue built during the Woodbridge housing "boom" of the 1880s, in particular, the several houses constructed along Kipling Avenue during this period. 2

Typical of the ell-shaped house of the time, the overall plan of the house is asymmetrical in design. Examples of this irregular design include the off-centred main entranceway at the facade, evidence of a porch once found along the inner walls of the ell plan, and a second storey doorway located above the main entranceway.

The house is a one-and-one-half storey structure clad in red brick with yellow brick details found on the window voussoirs and corner quoins of the wall area. A rear, one storey brick addition (likely used as a kitchen area), is presently clad in vertical board. Other decorative brickwork is found below the bay windows on the south and west elevations, distinguished by a band of yellow bricks arranged in a chevron pattern. The entire house is supported by a fieldstone foundation.

Modern windows are found throughout the house. The original window pane design, as found in an historical photograph of the house, would have been a two-over-two pane arrangement. Louvred wood shutters are also part of the original window design.

The off-centred entranceway has a transom and sidelights. A flat-roofed,

open porch provides shelter for the entranceway area. The porch itself has decorative brackets and posts. The historical photograph of the house shows that a second side porch was once located on the south elevation of the house. The porch had decorative vergeboard trim, brackets and supporting posts. Decorative vergeboard was also located on the fascia of the gable roofline on the south and west elevations.

Notes

1. Sources cite the English birthplace of the Farr brothers as having inspiring the name given to the village of Weston.
2. A Woodbridge columnist in the 22 March 1881, York Herald wrote, "there will be a lot of new buildings erected here this season, and of course that will cause a hum".

Sources

- Anderson, Katherine. *Kipling Avenue Properties*, (unpublished), 1989.
- Decennial Census of Canada, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891
- Fisher, Sidney Thomson. The Merchant- Millers of the Humber Valley. NC Press Limited, Toronto, 1985.
- Hillcrest Cemetery Transcription, Ontario Geneological Society, 1994.
- Illustrated Histirical Atlas of the County of York. Miles & Co., 1878.
- History of Toronto and the County of York. C. Blackett Robinson, 1885.
- Mary Wood Collection*, City of Vaughan Archives
- Reaman, G. Elmore. A History of Vaughan Township, 1971.
- Wood, Mary I. Pictorial Woodbridge, 1984.
- York Herald. 1881

Village of Woodbridge Council, 1886

William Farr pictured front row, far right.

Photograph from Pictorial Woodbridge.



William Farr House, 1902
50th Wedding Anniversary of William and
Sarah Farr.
Photograph from Pictorial Woodbridge



FARR FAMILY TREE

(partial)

