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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITBY

BY-LAW NO. 3096-92

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE STRUCTURE MUNICIPALLY KNOWN AS
170 MYRTLE ROAD EAST AS BEING OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE
AND INTEREST

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the
Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18, the Council of the
Corporation of the Town of Whitby considers it desirable to
designate property hereinafter described to be of historic and
architectural value and interest;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of the said Corporation has caused to be
served on the owners of property municipally known as 170 Myrtle
Road East, Whitby, Ontario, and upon the Ontario Heritage
Foundation, notice of its intention to designate the structure at
the aforesaid address to be of historic and architectural value and
interest and has caused such notice to be published in a newspaper
having general circulation in the Town of Whitby;

AND WHEREAS, no person has served a notice of objection to the
proposed designation on the Clerk of the said Corporation;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby
enacts as follows:

1. The structure known as the John D. Stickney House located on
the property municipally known as 170 Myrtle Road East,
Whitby, Ontario and being more particularly described in
Schedule "A", attached to and forming part of this by-law, is
designated as being of historic and architectural value and
interest for the reasons set out in Schedule "B", attached
hereto.
2. This designation shall not preclude any changes that may be
deemed necessary for the efficient use of the structure
provided that any and all changes shall be in keeping with the
original and current character of the structure and shall be
carried out in consultation with the Local Architectural
Conservation Advisory Committee of the Town of Whitby.

BY-LAW READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS
13TH DAY OF JANUARY A.D., 1992.


CLERK


MAYOR

SCHEDULE "A"

That Part of Lot 19, Concession 9, in the Town of Whitby, Regional Municipality of Durham, designated as Part 2, Plan 40R-5431.

SCHEDULE "B"

TO

BY-LAW NO. 3096-92

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

JOHN D. STICKNEY HOUSE

170 MYRTLE ROAD EAST

SCHEDULE 'B'

DESIGNATION REPORT
THE JOHN D. STICKNEY HOUSE
170 MYRTLE ROAD EAST
BUILT C. 1853-54

THE JOHN D. STICKNEY HOUSE

170 MYRTLE ROAD EAST

BUILT C. 1853-54

The John D. Stickney house, one of the early pioneer homes in the Myrtle area, is located in the south-east corner of lot 19, Concession 9, Whitby.

The entire 200 acres of lot 19 were patented by the Government to William Sharmahorn on Aug. 10, 1801. He was an absentee owner who never lived on the property, which at that time was unsettled wilderness.

Although there is no connecting link in the abstract of title, the 200 acres are sold on January 13, 1841 from James Jayne to Micaiah Jayne. On Nov. 4, 1853, Micaiah Jayne sold the south half (100 acres) to John D. Stickney. The same day, Stickney mortgaged the property back to Jayne for 750 pounds English currency (about \$3,750), a large sum for that period, and more than enough required to build a house.

Although the house on this property may appear to be earlier than 1853, the land title indicates that it is most likely that John D. Stickney was the first bona-fide settler on this land. There is no other record of James or Micaiah Jayne and there are no graves for these people in any local cemeteries. A careful review for the architectural report should indicate if the house could date back to the Jayne purchase in 1841. With such a large mortgage, the first taken out on the property, it would seem that John D. Stickney settled on this land and built his home immediately.

Little is known of John D. Stickney. His grave stone in the Society of Friends' Cemetery, on the north side of Highway 2 in Ajax, states he died on Feb. 14, 1865. The stone is very weathered, but seems to indicate he died at the age of 85 years. That would make his birth date in 1779. Like many Quakers, for this was a Quaker cemetery, he most likely came from the United States.

John Stickney made his will out on Nov. 4, 1863, disposing of the south half of lot 19, concession 9. On Sept. 19, 1860 he sold 25 acres to his son Edward D. Stickney and after the father's death, Edward also owns the balance of the property.

On March 8, 1864, Edward E. Stickney sold the south-east 40 acres of the lot to Henry Derby.

Henry E. Derby (1840-1924) is likely the person to whom this land was sold. He was married on June 11, 1864, three months after purchasing the farm, to Laura A. Briggs, a member of a neighboring family. Henry E. Derby was born on Feb. 10, 1840 and died on Jan. 3, 1924. His wife was born in 1849 and died on July 16, 1914. Both are buried in the Methodist Cemetery at Myrtle.

Little is known for certain of the Derby family. Henry Derby, possibly the father of Henry E. Derby, came to the Myrtle area from Napanee in 1831, according to an article by Ross Johnston (the Traveller) in the Whitby Chronicle Feb. 22, 1884. He was said

John D. Stickney house 2

to have built the first frame barn in the 9th concession of Whitby Township and the second in Reach Township. Mrs. Henry Derby died at Myrtle on Jan. 2, 1867 at the age of 66, having been born in 1800. There is also the possibility that George Derby (1812-1872) was Henry E. Derby's father. There is also a Darby family in the Myrtle area who may or may not be related. Further research is required to piece these families together.

It seems conclusive that Henry E. Derby was the owner of the house that is the subject of this report, for he moved into it just before his marriage and there are no other transactions on the property until he sold the land in 1913. No other Henry Derby fits into this time period. For many years the property was known as the Derby farm, even though Henry E. Derby was not the first owner.

On Oct. 15, 1913, Henry Derby sold his home and the 40 acres of land to Alexander Chisholm, for \$3,100. The Chisholm family was well known in the Reach and Myrtle area, the original Alexander Chisholm coming from Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and settling on the first Concession of Reach Township. He died in 1879. It is most likely that the Alexander Chisholm who purchased the Derby property was a descendant, but no definite link has been found. He kept the property for only two years, selling the 40 acres and the house to John Elsom on Aug. 19, 1915.

John Elsom (1855-1939), was born in England in 1855 and came to Canada as a young man in the 1870s. He farmed north of Columbus and south of Ashburn before purchasing the Derby farm. He died on March 30, 1939 at his home near Myrtle, and is buried in Groveside Cemetery.

John Elsom's only daughter, Addie Margaret, married Arthur Robert Maw at Columbus on March 26, 1919. Mr. Maw took over the operation of John Elsom's farm and after Mr. Elsom's death, Mr. Maw as an executor of his estate, sold the farm to his wife Addie Margaret Maw on April 27, 1939.

Arthur Robert Maw was born on June 5, 1888 at Brooklin and moved to the Derby farm after his marriage. He was an Ontario County Roads Foreman and a part-time farmer. He died at his home on April 13, 1962 and is buried in Groveside Cemetery, Brooklin. His wife Addie Margaret was born in either Whitby or East Whitby Township, Aug. 12, 1896 and died at the Oshawa General Hospital on Jan. 28, 1960.

On Oct. 5, 1960, the executors of Arthur Maw's estate sold the farm to his son John Arthur Maw and his wife Katherine Jane Nicholson. John Arthur Maw was born on Feb. 16, 1920 and died on Aug. 30, 1982. His wife was born on Dec. 23, 1917 and died at Port Perry on April 25, 1982. They are also buried in Groveside Cemetery.

John Arthur Maw did not live in the home at Myrtle after his parents' death, and he closed up the house for about 15 years. On Sept. 8, 1976 he and his wife sold the house to Fred G. and Pamela Scheuller, who sold the house on Jan. 18, 1980

John D. Stickney hous . 3

to the present owners, [REDACTED].

After being closed up for 15 years, the house was in very poor repair, but the owners after 1976 have restored it and made additions. [REDACTED] built an addition to the back of the house in the late 1970s and the [REDACTED] added a front porch in the 1980s. The house was featured on a house tour in 1986 as a restored pioneer home.

The John Stickney house is a fine example of an early small frame farm house. The architectural report should determine if it would date from 1841, although the land title seems to indicate it would be 1853-54.

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Heritage Structure Report

170 Myrtle Road East
Part of Lot 19, 9th Concession
Myrtle

Synopsis: *Possibly dating from the 1840s, this storey-and-a-half, three-bay house combines an early form and fine, simple detailing with attractive renovation and a good example of a clearly modern but compatible addition.*

Description

The subject property consists of a true one-and-a-half storey, three-bay rectangular frame house to which has been added an extensive, storey-and-a-half rear addition. Although continuous with the side walls of the original building, and actually considerably larger than the historic house, the new addition is distinguished by broken massing, a number of small gables, long roof slopes and irregular openings which clearly differentiate the new from the old. This wing is not described in detail in this report.

The house is clapboarded, with a medium-pitched gable roof with cornice returns, boxed soffits and cornice boards, and a reconstructed, hipped roof porch across the full width of the south front. Flat scrolling bargeboard in fair condition runs on the east gable end. Both roofs, as well as the addition, have been entirely shingled in cedar. Porch posts are plain and lightly chamfered; floorboards run perpendicular to the house. The original house had a kitchen wing, demolished for the addition, and two small, six-over-six windows in the upper gables, of which only the western pair remain. On the east side, a large bow window has been inserted across the space originally framed by the two windows. Each gable end also has a single window on the ground floor: on the east it is centred, on the west it is in the rear half of the wall. There are no original chimneys.

The clapboarding is thinned on its upper edge so that instead of an overlap, the board above lies almost flush with the next. This technique is similar to shiplap siding but in this application is a little more subtle,

giving a shadow line without the recess typical of shiplap. The corner weatherboards are planks about an inch thick, laid not quite over the ends of the clapboards but rather standing almost in front of them.

The doorease is without transom or sidelights. The six-panel door is behind a screen door with a spindle rail below a large screened panel. The door surround seems to be superimposed over the vestiges of an earlier doorcase which emerges as a shingled entablature at the top of the present surround. This surround has star motifs in the corner boxes and wide bevelled mouldings symmetrical about a centre.

Fenestration on the front facade is two-over-two double hung sash with wooden storms which bring the wall plane out in front of the clapboard. Shutters on these windows are old, but probably not original. Window boxes have a slight projection at the top, in fair to poor condition, designed to throw off water.

Interior: The house has been stripped down to a single space, but the nailing patterns on the floor indicate that there may have been a tight box stair where there is now a steep, modern stair which appears to have been reconstructed using refinished treads and an open arched rail similar to the 'angel's ladder' at the Sharon Temple. Door and window surrounds are narrower and slighter than might be expected in a house of this date, and ceiling cornices which break at the window openings were installed by the previous owners. No original baseboard trim is visible on the main floor.

Analysis

The low, compact form, medium-pitched roof and proportions of the three-bay facade all indicate a relatively early Ontario house of the 1820-50 period. Interior details reveal little about the date, but a closer inspection of exterior trim raises more questions than are answered. The glazing, for example, is mostly later than the house, with the exception of the six-over-six sash in the upper gables, which are probably original. It is not known when the larger windows were put in, but they are typical of sash from the 1870s on. The narrow doorcase without transom or sidelights is rarely seen, and then in the earliest or most modest of houses. The nailing pattern on the interior floor suggested three rooms—one the depth of the house, and two small slip rooms around a box stair, which would be an unusually tight, cramped plan, but one found in the houses of artisans or tradesmen in the 1840s.

The trim around the door is also typical of the 1840s, when the wide, flat bevelled profile between deeply undercut mouldings was

frequently seen. The stars in the corner boxes are more stark than the rosettes or simple circles which are more commonly seen, and the relationship of the whole to the entablature element above is peculiar. The flattened, elongated geometries of the capitals and horizontal members of this component, with its shingled rooflet, suggest the refined, attenuated Neo-classical work of the 1820s, when it is conceivable a door might have an elaborate surround without sidelights and having a small transom, which could nearly fit behind the present surround; but so early a date is rather improbable at this location. Clearly, however, the two elements around the front door do not quite fit together, and the bevelled surround presently has the appearance of having been superimposed over an earlier arrangement.

The cornice returns, boxed soffits and the moulding between soffits and cornice board are typical transitional elements between the Neo-classic and the Greek Revival ca. 1830. The bargeboard on the east end is later, possibly ca. 1850-60, and perhaps an effort to modernize the drive side of the house; the triangular louvred attic vents are probably modern insertions.

History

A historical report dated June 6, 1990 was prepared by Whitby Archivist Brian Winter. His work indicates that, on the basis of land and financial transactions, the house was probably built ca. 1853 by John D. Stickney, who is thought to have been an American Quaker who purchased and mortgaged the property in that year. The previous owner had acquired the property in 1841. The form and details of the house all support a date prior to 1850, although it is difficult to state with certainty that it was not built later than the stylistic indicators suggest. The latest element on the house is the two-over-two fenestration, which is clearly later; other trim could date from the mid-1830s to the later 1840s. It would be instructive to compare the door frame, and perhaps interior upstairs trim, if any survives, with details of other houses in the area.

Site

The house sits a small distance from the road at the crest of a hill overlooking the land to the west. An arrangement of timber gambrel and gabled barns behind the house shelters and defines the work yard. The lot adjacent has been subdivided and built on fairly narrow frontage quite close to the subject property, and the fire hall is located

to the east of that. A very fine nineteenth-century brick house across the street helps to continue the historical rural character.

The lot has been elaborately landscaped with a low box hedge the height of the verandah floor defining the curving walk, the edge of the front porch and the east side of the house. An arrow-headed board fence has been built to enclose a more elaborate yard, with a pool, pavilion and patios, behind the addition.

Significance

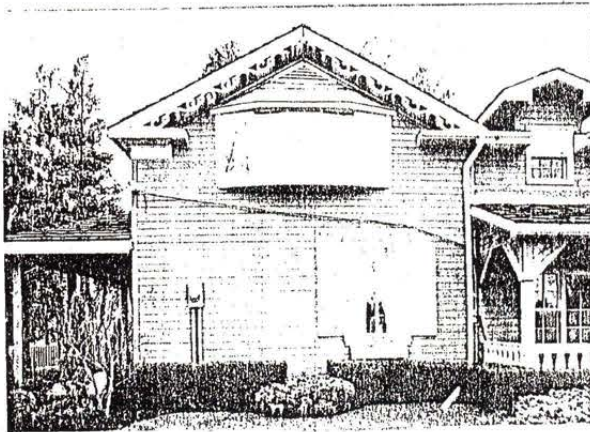
Despite the alterations and additions to the house, and the loss of the interior, what remains presents a significant and early example of settlement architecture in Ontario. The trim on windows, eaves and cornice has a workmanlike delicacy common even on modest houses of the 1820s and 1830s, and the form is distinctive of a specific period. Since its recovery from dereliction in 1976, the house has been carefully and appropriately rehabilitated back to an attractive example of historic architecture and satisfactory renovation.

Recommendation

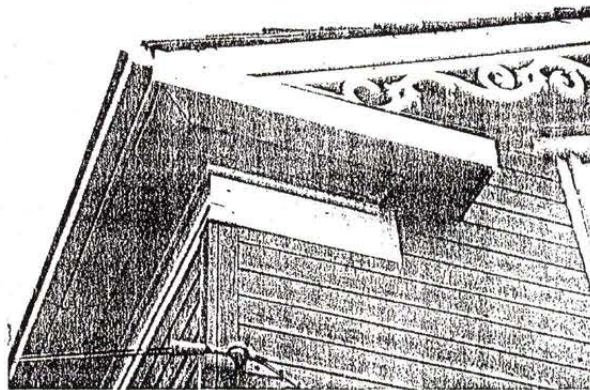
It is recommended that the house at 170 Myrtle Road East be designated for architectural and historical reasons. The three-bay, gabled one-and-a-half storey form, with cedar roof shingles, narrow clapboarding, cornice returns, fine eaves and cornice trim, six-over-six upper windows and juxtaposed front door surrounds, dates from the 1840s.

(This wording will protect the elements mentioned, which are all believed to be original historic material, with the exception of the cedar shingles, which are clearly replacement but are perfectly appropriate. It will not cover the reconstructed verandah or any aspect of the addition. Additional wording might read as follows:)

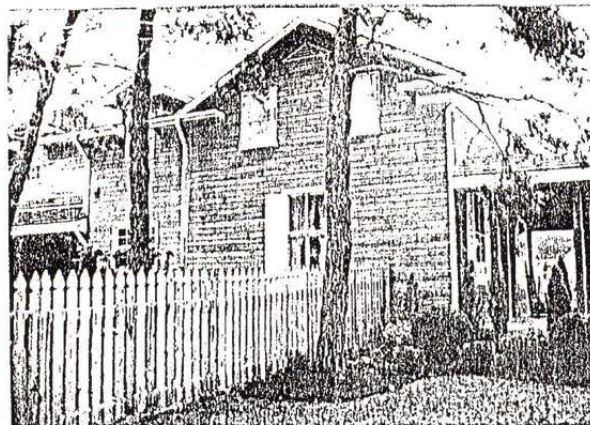
Other significant features are the two-over-two sash, window surrounds, reconstructed verandah and the partially screened relationship to the landscape.



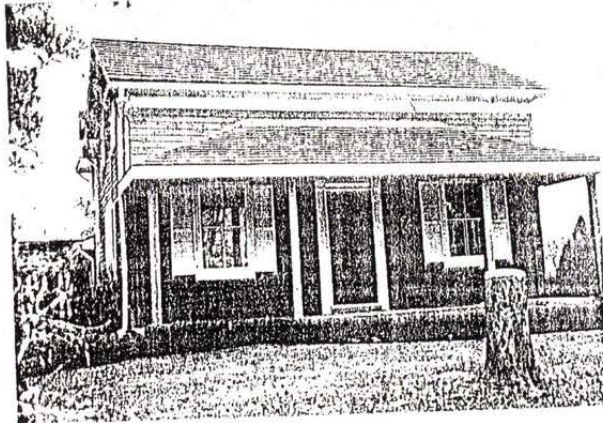
170 MYRTLE ROAD
EAST
VIEW FROM EAST



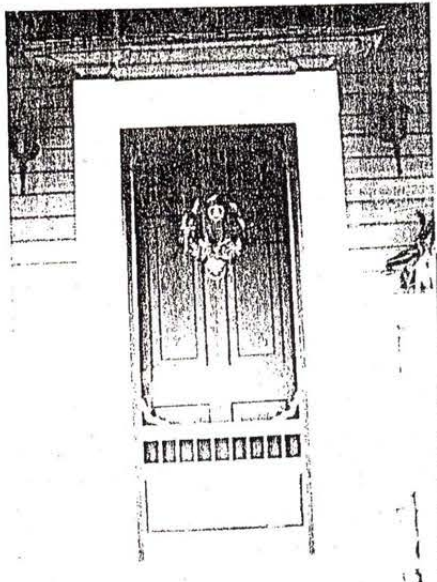
170 MYRTLE ROAD
EAST
EAVES DETAIL AND
CORNICE RETURN,
EAST SIDE



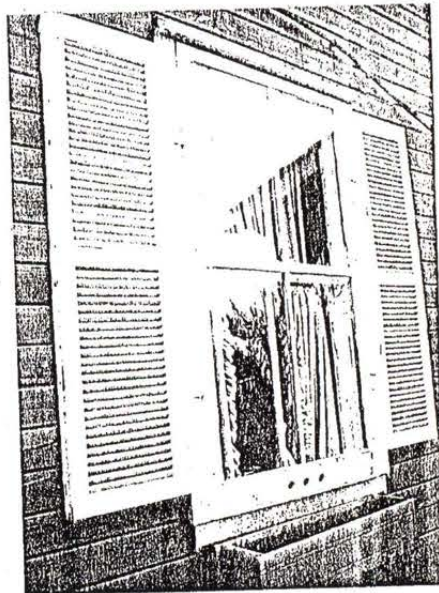
170 MYRTLE ROAD
EAST
VIEW FROM WEST



170 MYRTLE ROAD
EAST
SOUTH FRONT
ELEVATION



170 MYRTLE ROAD EAST
DETAIL, FRONT DOORCAST



170 MYRTLE ROAD EAST
DETAIL, SIDE WINDOW