

DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



GEORGE BECKETT HOUSE

744 Thornton Road North, Oshawa

Prepared for Heritage Oshawa
by
Marg Jackson
based in part on research
by
Patricia Neal

July 16, 2001

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The George Beckett House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act due to its historical and architectural significance.

HISTORICAL REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Anthony Niverville (De Niverville) received the patent for all 200 acres of lot number 17 in the third concession in the Township of East Whitby on December 31, 1798. In 1824 the south half was sold to James McManus who sold to Samuel Cochrane four years later. George Beckett acquired the 50 acres in the southeast quarter of lot 17 in 1830. The transaction was not registered on title until 1872.

Walton's directory for 1837, and Brown's directory of 1846-7, record George Beckett on lot 17, concession 3. No further information is provided. In the 1851 census, George Beckett is identified with his family as residing on lot 17, concession 3 in a stone house one storey. Unfortunately, no earlier records are available to more accurately date his fine residence.

George Beckett was a farmer born in England. He was 60 years old in 1851. His wife Elizabeth was five years younger and also from England. Two sons, James and Thomas, were living at home. James, age 16, and Thomas, two years younger, were born in Upper Canada. The family's faith was Church of England. A 23-year-old labourer, Robert Boddy, resided with the family. According to the Collectors Roll of 1859 Mr. Beckett had a real and personal property value for tax purposes of \$2400.

The 1861 census ages George and Elizabeth only five years since the census ten years previous. The boys, 25 and 23 years of age, are now married and working on the family farm. Other family members are not identified.

George Beckett died on January 11, 1873. His will, registered in 1882, identifies 10 children. Assuming he listed his children in order of birth, James and Thomas had four older brothers, and

three older and one younger sister. George bequeathed his real and personal estate and effects to his wife Elizabette for her use until her death. After the death of his wife, all real estate consisting of the southeast quarter of lot 17, concession 3 went to his eldest son John Beckett. The remaining nine children were to divide all household furniture. In addition they received fifty cents apiece.

John Beckett was married and living in East Whitby at the time of his father's death. John Beckett and his wife Lolina had three children; George, Elizabeth, and Albert. George Sr.'s widow Elizabette was still alive and living with her son John and his family in 1881. John Beckett died around the turn of the century.

ARCHITECTURAL REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The George Beckett House is early building constructed c.1837 in the Classical Revival style. The lancet-arched, gable window over the front entranceway was likely added later (c.1860) during the Gothic Revival period.

The storey-and-a-half structure is constructed of fieldstone. Raised pointing in a random ashlar pattern gives the appearance of cut stone with stone quoins and voussoirs either true or implied. The George Beckett House presents a symmetrical, balanced appearance. The three-bay facade, or east elevation, features a central entrance doorway flanked by a 2/2 divided light, sash window to either side. The centred gable features a lancet-arched, sash window with stone voussoirs over a shed-roofed portico. Paired wooden posts atop a fieldstone foundation support the portico. The eight-panelled entrance door has a wood transom. Two corbelled brick chimneys grow out of the two end walls. The chimneys, one obviously newer but similar in shape and detailing to the original, feature a three brick diamond design in buff brick on a red brick ground.

The south elevation exhibits the low-pitched gable roof typical of a Classical Revival house. The returned eaves expected on a building of this type are missing. Two single sash, 2/2 divided light windows, of smaller proportions than the main floor windows, appear under the gable end.

An open verandah is featured along the first level of the north elevation. It is supported by four wooden posts with four additional wooden 'half-posts' set parallel along the wall surface. A small window, not original to the structure, is tucked under the verandah towards the west end. Two divided light windows identical to the south elevation appear under the gable. A one-storey addition attached to the rear of the building extends out far enough to the north to accommodate an entranceway sheltered by the verandah.

The west elevation, or rear of the property has a wooden storm door clad entrance flanked by a 2/2 divided light window. Nearly midway along the wall tucked under the eaves is a short, half sash window. Some portions of the fine raised pointing is missing from this elevation. The one-storey rear addition continues to the west.

SOURCES

Abstract Index of Deeds, Land Registry Office, Durham.

Assessment Rolls. Township of East Whitby.

Brown's Toronto City and Home District Directory. Toronto: George Brown, 1846-7.
Reprint. Ontario Genealogical Society, 1989.

Census Data 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881.

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Masons and Builders Guide. New York: Theodore Audel and Company, 1924.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. **A Field Guide to American Houses.** New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

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Whitby, East Whitby (map). Pickering Township Historical Society, c.1867.

Will of George Beckett. Instr.#2865, dated April 1, 1872.

Appendix 1. Site Map

Appendix 2. Detail Photographs

IDENTIFICATION

Property: George Beckett House

Location: 744 Thornton Road North
East Whitby,
Plan 642 Pt Lot 10
Now RP 40R-2601 Part 2
0.43 acre 135.00 frontage, 140.00 depth

Owner: Patricia Ann Lindsay
RR #1 (744 Thornton Road North)
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 7K4

Inventory Number: (To be assigned)

Builder Unknown

Construction Date: c.1837

Architectural Style: Classical Revival

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Residence

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Plan: Rectangular, 1½ storey

Foundation: Fieldstone

Exterior Wall: Fieldstone

Windows: 2/2 divided lights;
Lancet-arched gable window

Roof: Low pitch gable

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Construction:*** Fieldstone construction with raised pointing in random ashlar design
- Windows:*** Lancet-arched window in centre gable with stone voussoirs
- Chimneys:*** Corbelled chimneys in red brick with a three brick diamond design in buff brick





GEORGE BECKETT HOUSE
744 Thornton Road North
Oshawa



Prepared for Heritage Oshawa by:
Patricia K. Neal
Heritage Consultant
February 1997

SITE INFORMATION

Property: George Beckett House

Location: 744 Thornton Road North
East Whitby
Plan 642 Pt lot 10
Now RP 40R-2601 Part 2
0.43 acre, 135.00 frontage, 140.00 depth

Owner: **M. F. I. P.P.A. Sec. 14 (1)**
Road)
Oshawa, Ontario L1H 7K4

Date Constructed: c.1837

Builder: Unknown

Architecture Style: Classical Revival

Present Use: Residence

Original Use: Residence

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Plan: Rectangular, 1 1/2 storey

Foundation: Fieldstone

Exterior Wall: Fieldstone

Roof type: Low pitch gable

Windows: 2/2 divided lights
lancet-arched gable window

UNIQUE FEATURES

Construction: Fieldstone construction with raised pointing in random ashlar design.

Windows: Lancet-arched window in centre gable with stone voussoirs.

Chimneys: Corbelled chimneys in red brick with a three brick diamond design in buff brick

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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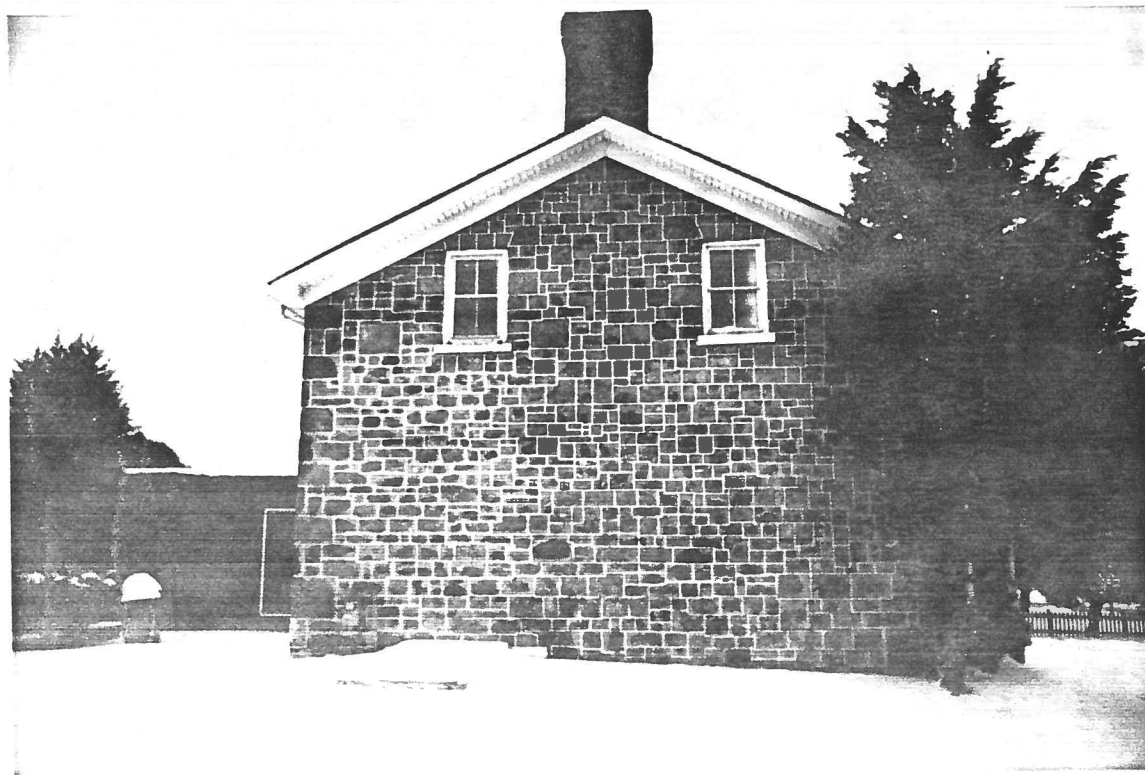
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George Beckett House
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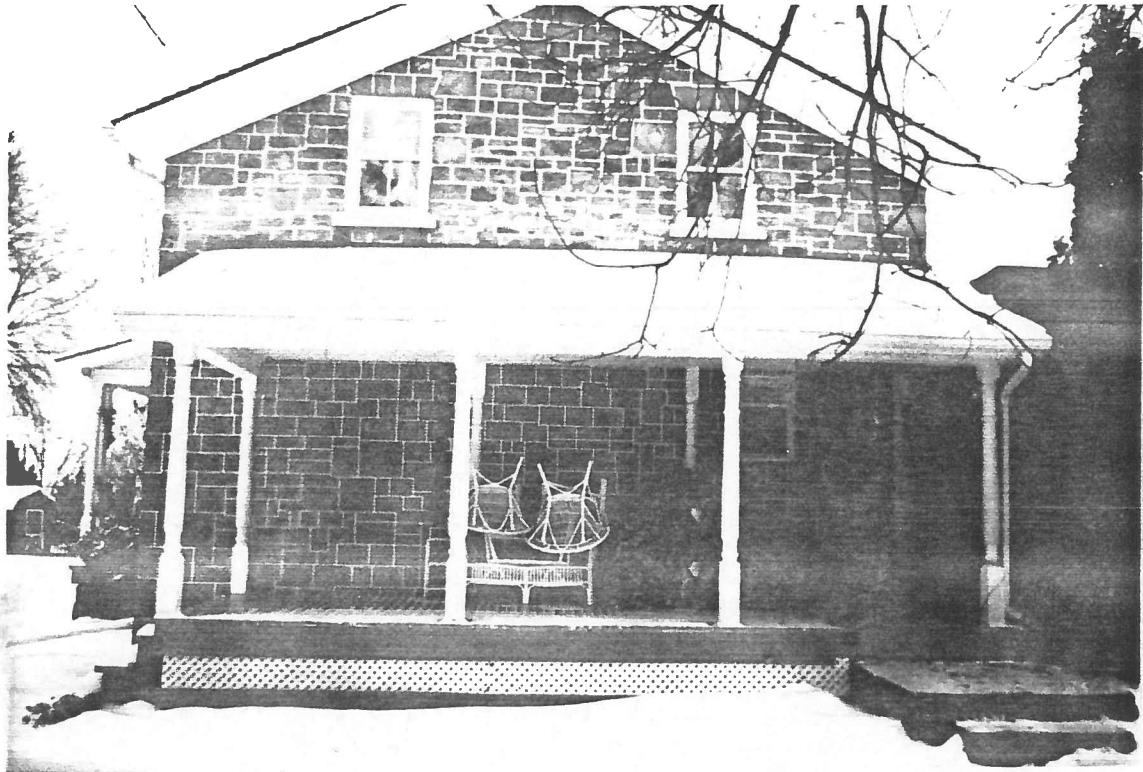
Facade detail.



South elevation.

George Beckett House
744 Thornton Road

North elevation.



View of southwest elevation.