



## TREVAIL HOUSE

1090 TOWNLINE ROAD NORTH

CITY OF OSHAWA

PREPARED FOR HERITAGE OSHAWA  
BY

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2003

## TREVAIL HOUSE

1090 TOWNLINE ROAD NORTH

### SUMMARY

Only two families, Trevails and Glaspells, have farmed this property since 1847 and occupied its *c.*1852 stone dwelling. Built in the Georgian style tradition with some Gothic Revival style influence, this storey and a half dwelling at 1090 Townline Road North still reflects its nineteenth century origin. Although not all architectural elements are original, it is a well-preserved example in a rural landscape.

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## **TREVAIL HOUSE, *CIRCA* 1852**

**1090 TOWNLINE ROAD NORTH  
CITY OF OSHAWA**

**PART LOT 1, CONCESSION 3, EAST WHITBY TOWNSHIP  
PART 2 RP40R15946**

### **LOT HISTORY**

The north half of Lot 1, Concession 3, East Whitby, was patented by Jacob Clayton in 1799. Jacob Herchmer bought from Clayton in 1803. The Herchmers (Jacob, Joseph H, and Laurence) were the owners until 1833 when the parcel was bought by Abram Butterfield. The Butterfields are known as early settlers along the front of East Whitby township at what became known as Butterfields Corners.

Abram sold the 50 acres of the south half of the north half of Lot 1 to John Butterfield in 1846. It was John who sold to Philip Trevail on November 27, 1847.

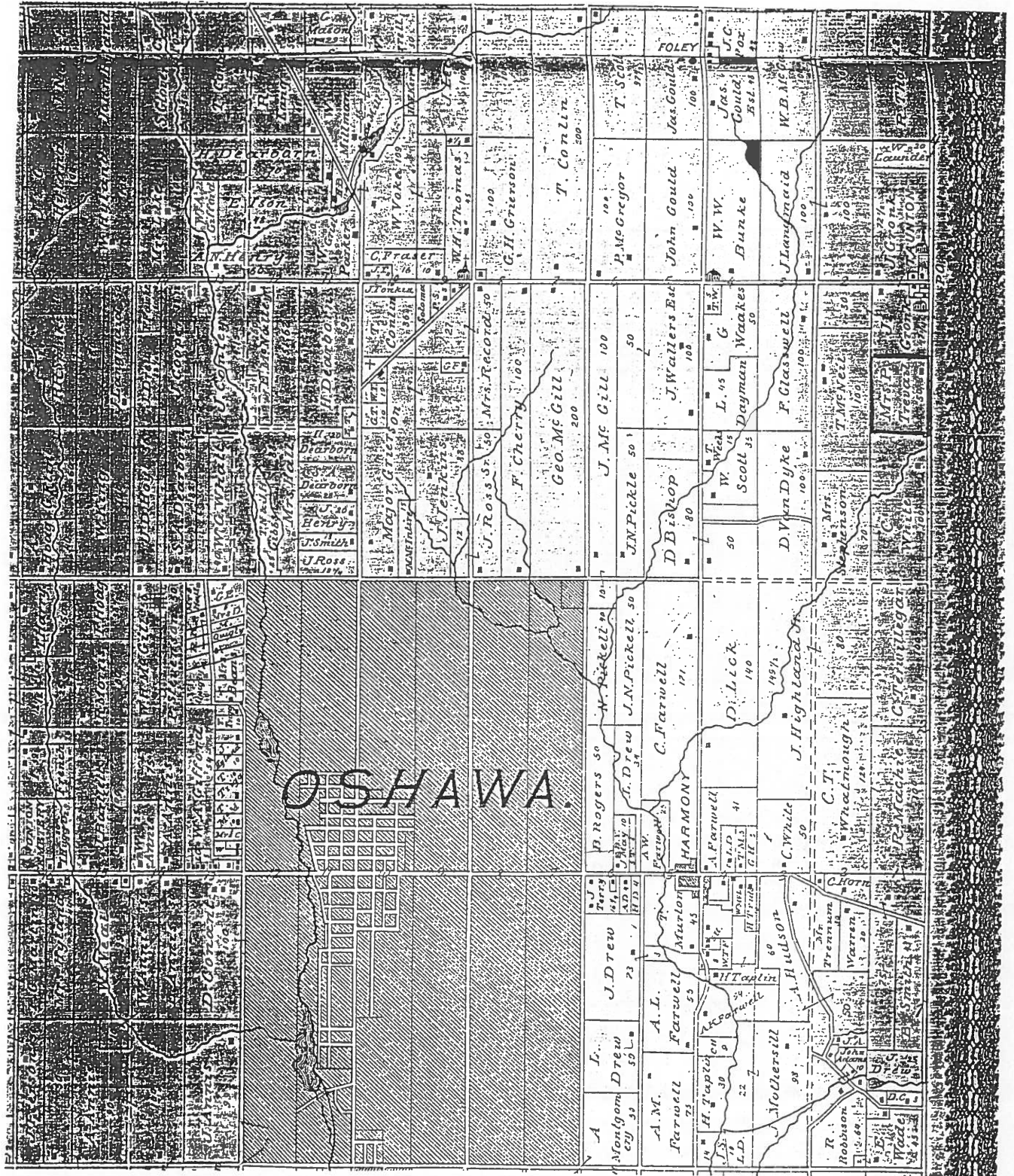
### **TREVAIL FAMILY**

The 1851 personal and agricultural censuses indicate that Philip Trevail was born in England, a farmer, and age 35 that year. He did not adhere to any church. His spouse Harriet J. was 31, also born in England and of no professed church. Their children were Ervilla, 3; Ann, 2; and Jane 1, all born in Upper Canada. In 1851, they lived in a one storey, log house on 50 acres of Lot 1, Concession 3.

The Trevails were not recorded in the 1861 census for East Whitby township.

In 1871, Harriet J. (likely Jane) was a widow, aged 51. At that time she claimed her faith as Church of England. Their farm was 100 acres of Lot 1. In the household were Ervilla, 21; Ann, 20; Jane, 18; Sydney, 17; Grace, 12; James, 10; and Sylvanus, 7. Assuming Sylvanus was the son of Philip and Harriet, Philip must have died between 1864 and 1871.

EAST WHITBY TOWNSHIP, 1877



In 1881, the household was Jane, 55 [*sic*]; Sidney, 26; Jane, 28; Grace, 22; James, 20; and Sylvanus, 17. They had converted to Bible Christian.

It is likely that Harriet Jane was given possession of the property in 1882 through her son, Sidney. There were two properties involved: 100 acres in Darlington township, and the 50 acres in East Whitby (Lot 1). The sale of Lot 1 to Harriet was confirmed in February 1885 by a Quit Claim from Ervilla of Toronto (wife of a slater, John Duthie); spinster Jane Trevail of East Whitby; James and Sylvanus Trevail, both East Whitby farmers; and Grace Saunders of the Town of Oshawa, wife of cabinet maker, Henry Saunders. Each was given \$900 in compensation.

In 1891, Jane was listed as 69, widowed, Methodist, and a farmer. She lived with her son James P. Trevail, 29, also a farmer. They occupied a one and a half storey, stone house with eight rooms.

The 1901 census gives the date of birth for James as July 18, 1861. That year, he listed his religion as Methodist and was a farmer. In his household were Joseph [Scentree], Joseph's wife, and their six children. Joseph was a farm labourer. In total, James owned 150 acres, had a single family, stone house with ten rooms, and two stables or barns.

On October 1, 1906, Janet, widow of the late East Whitby farmer, Barber Edward Cronk, sold property to James Trevail. For \$7000, James acquired parts of Lots 1 and 2, Concession 3, 77.5 acres in total. The Cronks were long term neighbours to the north of the Trevails. Their house was on the concession line and not on Townline Road.

In March 1915, the executors of James Trevail sold the 50 acres of Lot 1 to Wesley Glaspell (grandfather of the current owner) for \$4200. James's other lots were sold the same day to Everett A. Gifford for \$7750. (The mother of the current owner was a Gifford.) The executors were Ervilla Duthie; Annie Arnot, wife of Jesse Arnot of Darlington township; Jane Stanton, wife of John Stanton of Oshawa; Sidney Trevail; Grade Saunders, an Oshawa mechanic; and Sylvanus Trevail, a farmer in New Liskeard in Temisgaming. These were the surviving siblings of James, who died June 17, 1914, not married. His administrator was Frederick J. Clemens.

## **GLASPELL FAMILY**

Wesley Glaspell died on December 7, 1938, leaving his widow, Fannie. One of his executors, Frank Berton Glaspell, died on April 7, 1945. Fannie died on December 16, 1947. The remaining executors, Tracy Clinton Glaspell and Irene Hilts, sold to Tracy in February 1948. There were two parcels transferred: the north 40 acres of the south half of Lot 1, Concession 3, all lying north of the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway Company lands; and the south half of the north half of Lot 1, 50 acres.

June 1959 saw the 50 acres transferred by Tracy and his wife Hazel, to their son, Glen Gifford Glaspell. Glen had occupied the subject house since his marriage in 1952. He subdivided the lot and in 1994, Part 2 D444069 was transferred to his spouse, Eleanor Lorraine, as a joint tenant. Glen and Eleanor Glaspell are the current owners of the subject dwelling and still farm the property. Other family members also occupy parts of the property.

According to the current owner, there is a tradition that a murder took place in the "basement" of the dwelling. Further research is required.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

### **DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

The current owner believes that the house was built about 1852. The 1851 census identifies the dwelling on the property that year as log. There is no listing for the Trevails in the 1861 census. Stylistically, the house could date to the 1850s. According to the current owner, there are several stone houses in the area all constructed by the same mason before 1875. A similar example to the subject dwelling is to the northwest.

### **STYLE AND FORM**

This is a storey and a half, 3-bay, Georgian style house in a T-plan. As with many mid nineteenth century dwellings, a shallow pitched, centre gable is incorporated into the front facade. The gable is more related to Classical traditions than to the pointed centre gables characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. The house faces east to Townline Road. A (rear) west extension is narrower than the main dwelling and forms two recessed areas on the north and south. Although extensions or

tails to main dwellings were standard as kitchen wings, the current owner suspects that the extension is a later addition. Further (interior) examination may confirm this theory.

### **WALL CLADDING**

The dwelling is coursed rubble stone. Larger dimension, more evenly cut stone is used on the prominent facades of the main dwelling. For several years, the current owner employed a local mason who applied oil as a preservative for the stone. The result is a blackened surface on most facades, except portions of the rear of the house and extension where the natural stone is visible. On all south and east facades, and the north facade of the main dwelling, the mason repointed using white, tooled mortar that gives the appearance of smooth cut stone. This is a traditional technique but has been exaggerated by the now black colour of the stone contrasting with the stark white mortar.

Large stones are placed as voussoirs or heads over each door and window opening. The effect is exaggerated by the white mortar.

### **PORCHES**

The porch on the south facade of the extension is not original. Perhaps to accommodate the entrance to the outbuilding/ garage at the west, it does not extend the full length of the extension. Wood nailing strips on the north facade of the extension may indicate the location of a former porch. The current owner does not recall a porch in that location during her fifty years living in the house.

### **FOUNDATION**

The foundation is not visible but is likely stone. The current owner excavated for a deeper, more serviceable basement.

### **ROOF**

The main house and extension have medium pitched, gable roofs. The wide fascia board and deep soffits are decorated with pairs of carved brackets. The brackets are clustered more closely on the main house than on the extension. There are no brackets on the east gable, except on the eaves



returns. The gable ends (north, south, and east) have returned eaves. A roof dormer has been added to the north side of the extension. The roof cladding is now asphalt shingling.

### **CHIMNEYS**

The original chimneys are removed. A large, limestone chimney is on the exterior wall of the north facade of the extension.

### **WINDOW OPENINGS**

Within the Gothic Revival gable of the east facade is a pointed window opening with multipaned sash, including upper, double pointed muntins. The glazing (glass) may be original but the storm window is a replacement. All other window openings are flat, with wood lugsills and frames. The original sashes, likely multipaned and double hung, have been replaced with reproductions. A small window opening has been cut into the east facade, ground level.

### **ENTRANCEWAYS**

The front (east) doorcase is Classical in style and placement. The transom, glazing in the sidelights, and the 6-panel door are replacements. The lower panels in the sidelights may be original. The sill has been replaced with stone.

The doorway on the south side of the extension is modern in design. A modern, enclosed portico with a shed roof abuts the extension and the garage at the west. A new large sunroom with decking is positioned at the northwest corner of the extension. A rear entrance into the extension has been closed in.

### **SETTING**

The dwelling faces east to Townline Road. It has an urban sized front yard with mature vegetation. The surrounding area is a farmscape with barns, outbuildings, and fields.

### **CONDITION**

The dwelling is in stable condition and has several sympathetic upgrades. Apart from the blackened stone and new white mortar, the prominent facade still presents a mid nineteenth century rural dwelling.

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

Only two families, Trevails and Glaspells, have farmed this property and occupied its attractive stone dwelling for over a century and a half. Generally, the renovations have maintained its historic integrity. Although not the only stone house in the vicinity, it is a well-preserved example in a rural landscape.

It should be noted that the current owners have occupied the house since 1952. Although they have shown an interest in its historic integrity and history, they have concerns about any legislated protection of the property at this time.

## **SUMMARY**

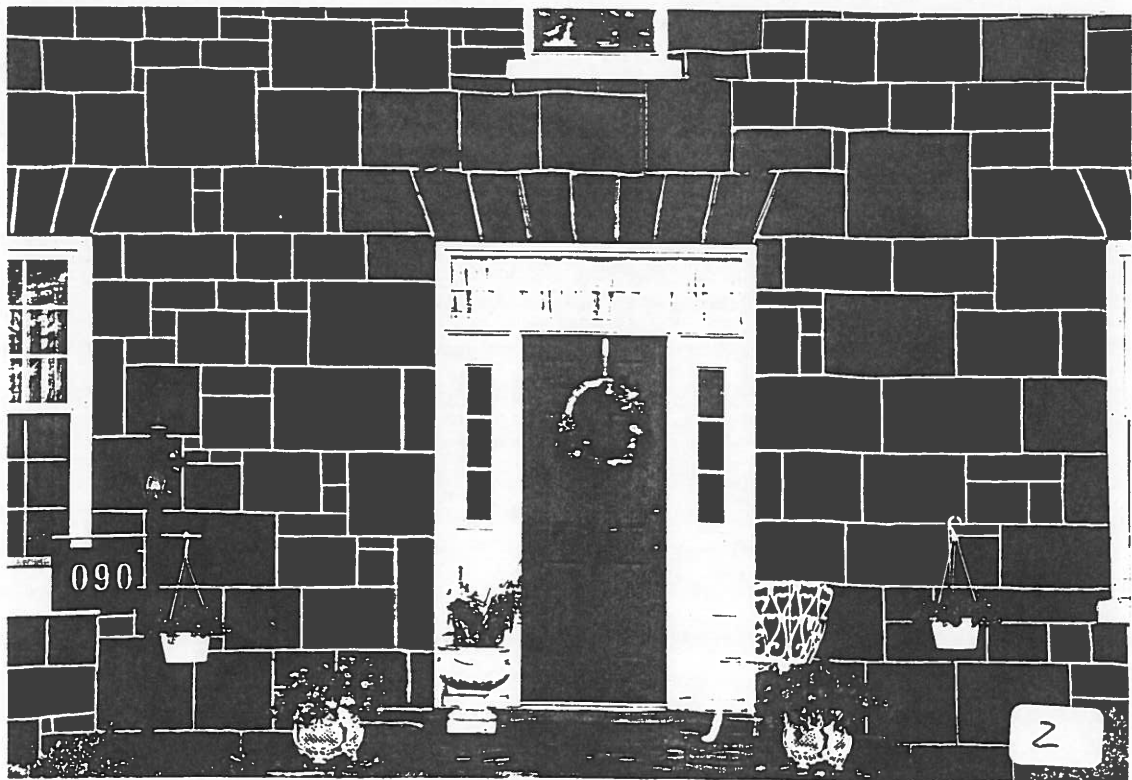
Only two families, Trevails and Glaspells, have farmed this property since 1847 and occupied its c.1852 stone dwelling. Built in the Georgian style tradition with some Gothic Revival style influence, this storey and a half dwelling at 1090 Townline Road North still reflects its nineteenth century origin. Although not all architectural elements are original, it is a well-preserved example in a rural landscape.

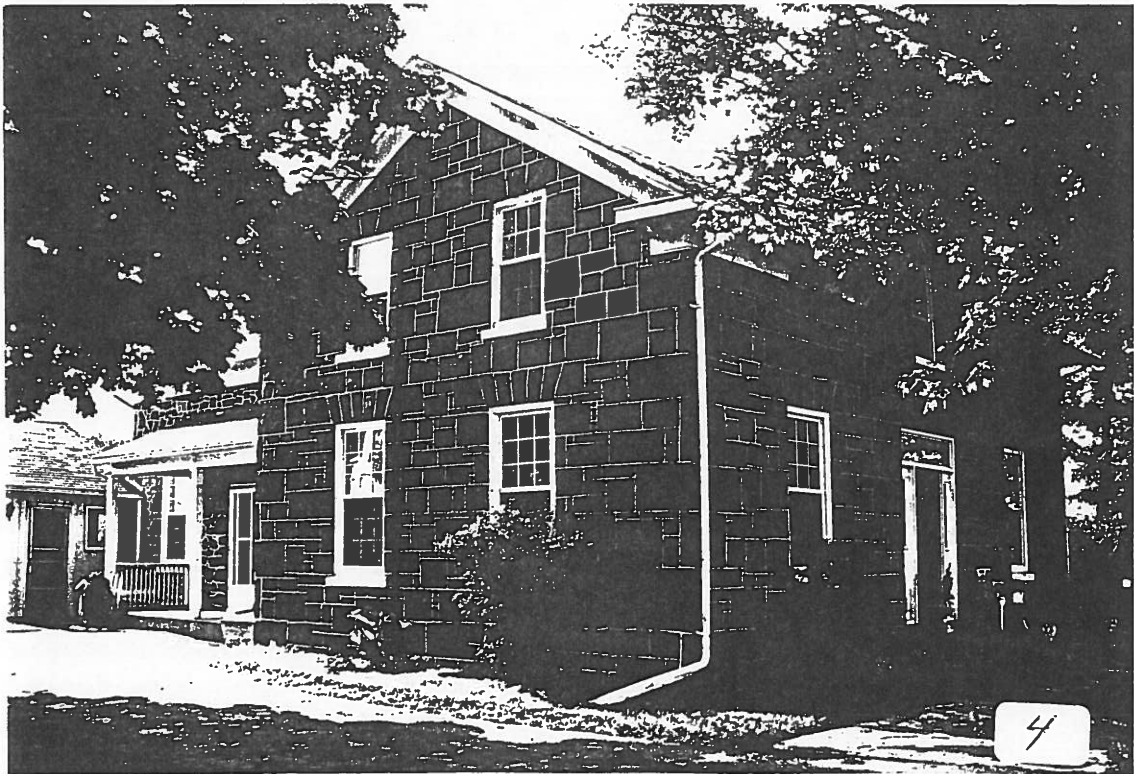
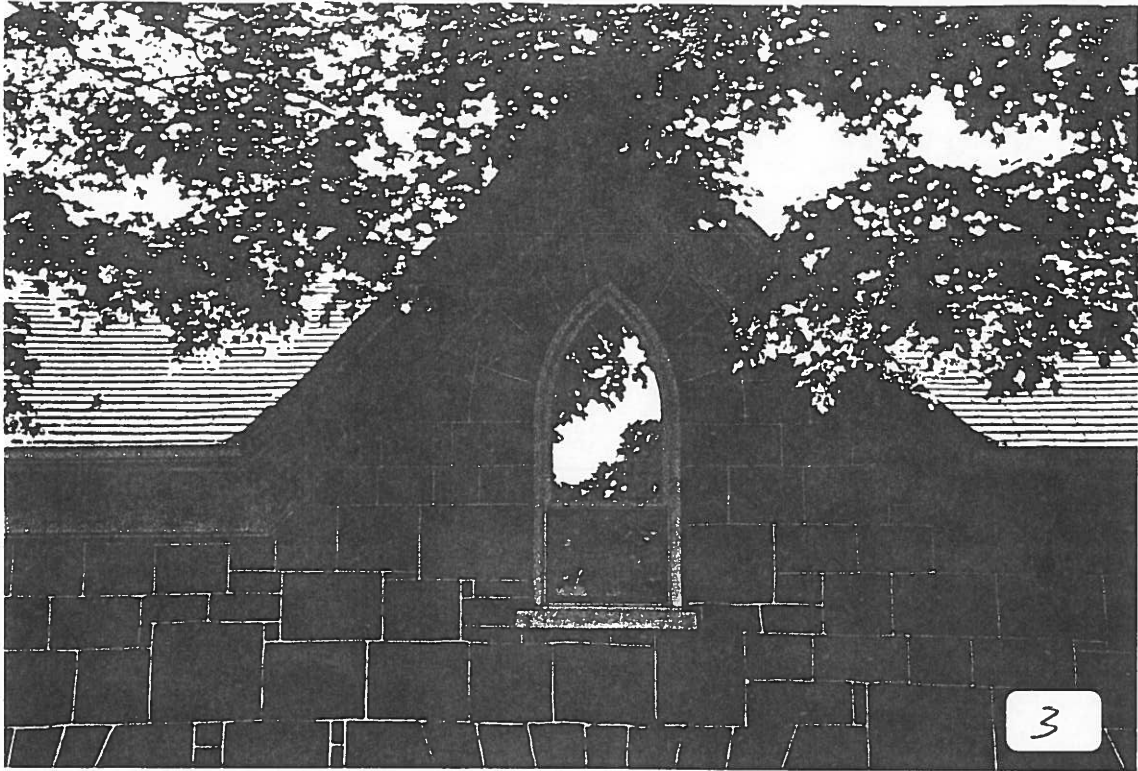
## APPENDIX

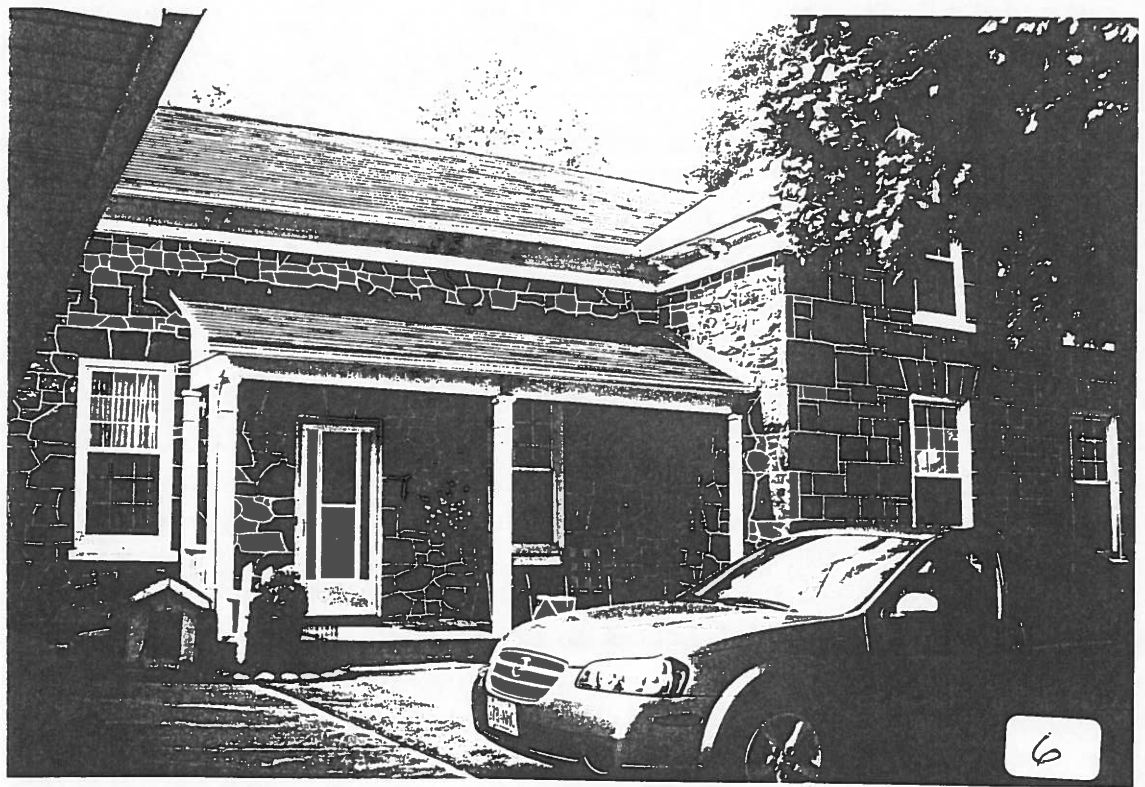
## PHOTOGRAPHS

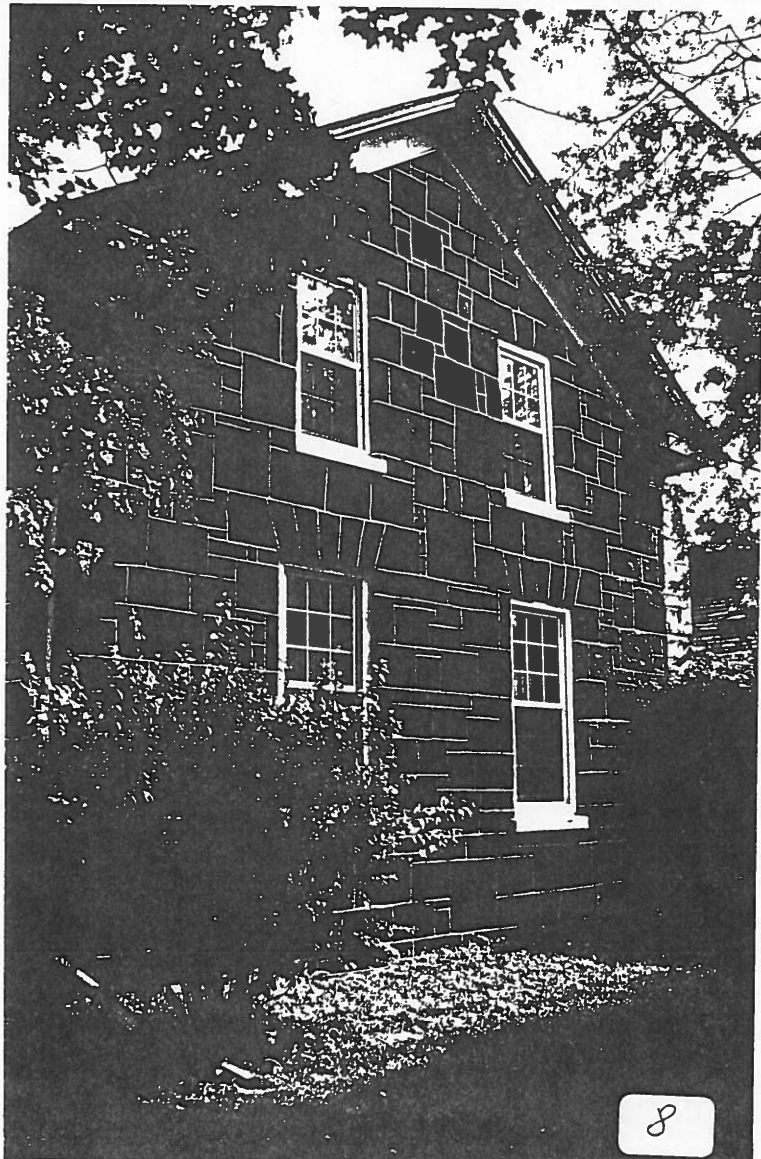
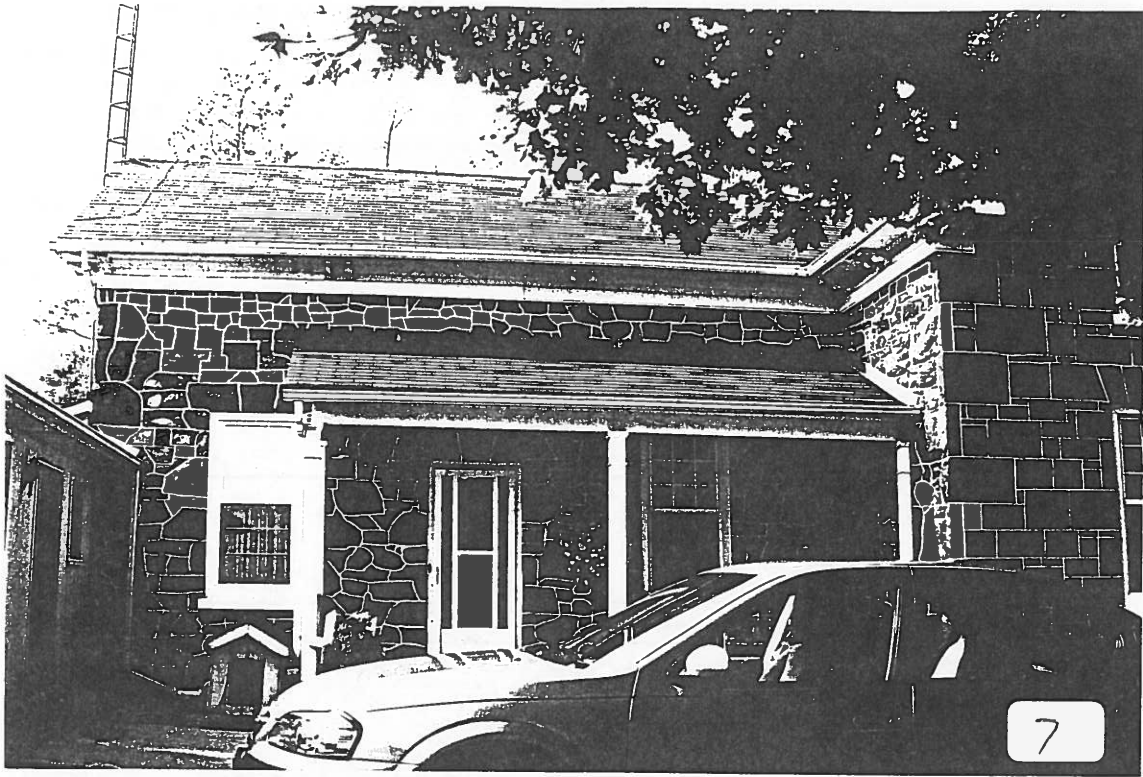
### Photographs, 2003

1. East facade
2. East entryway detail
3. East gable detail
4. South and east facades, looking northwest
5. South facade of main house
6. South facade, house and extension
7. South facade, house and extension
8. North facade of main house
9. North facade, west eave detail of house
10. North facade join of house and extension, showing new chimney
11. West facade showing new sunroom on left, enclosed entryway on right, at garage
12. West facade
13. West facade extension, north eave detail

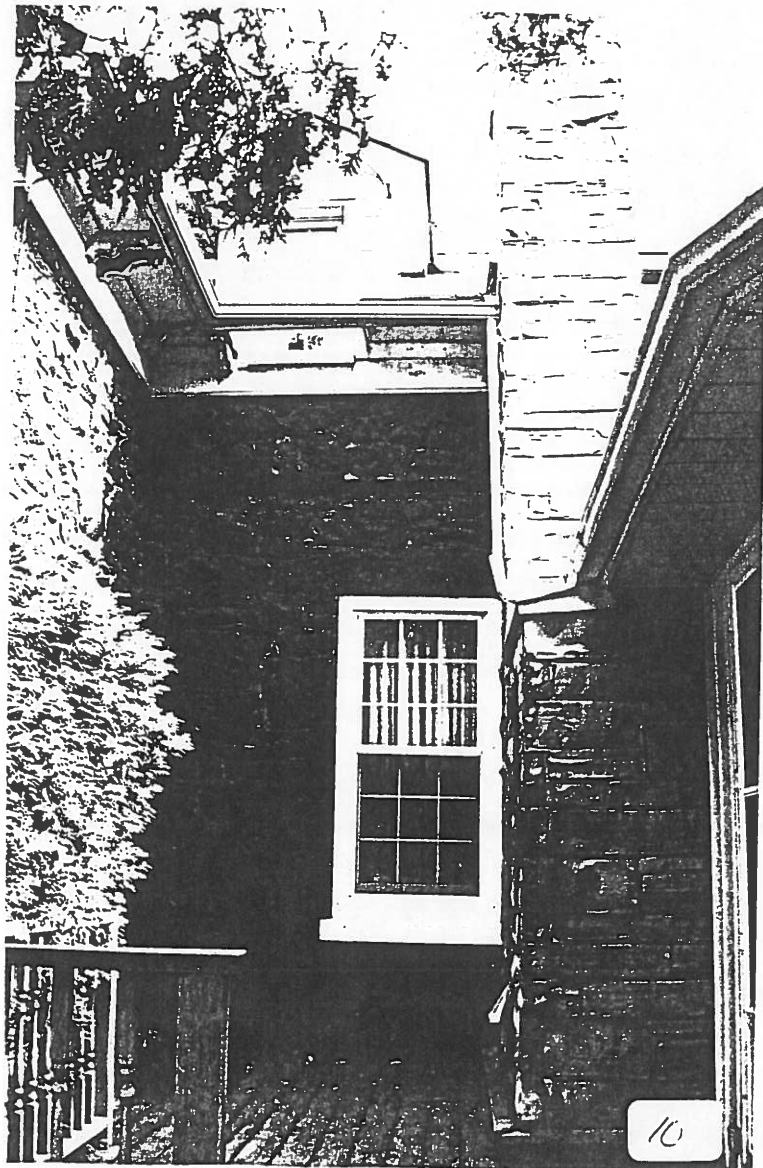
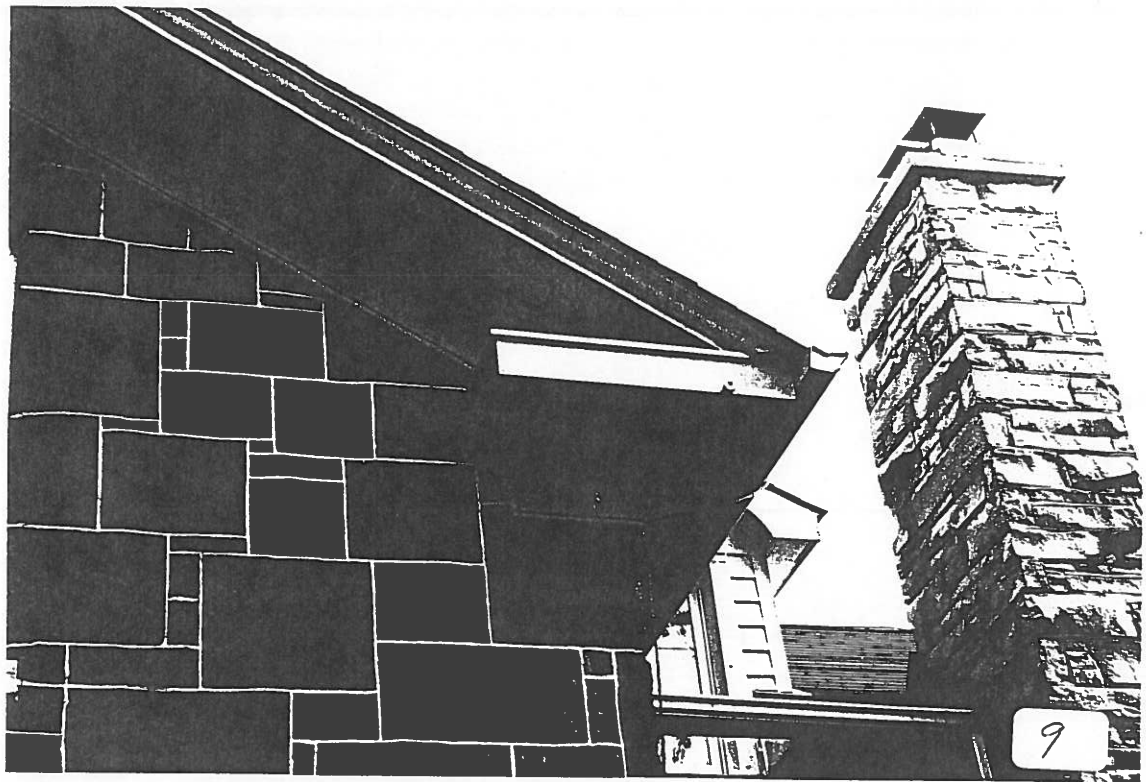


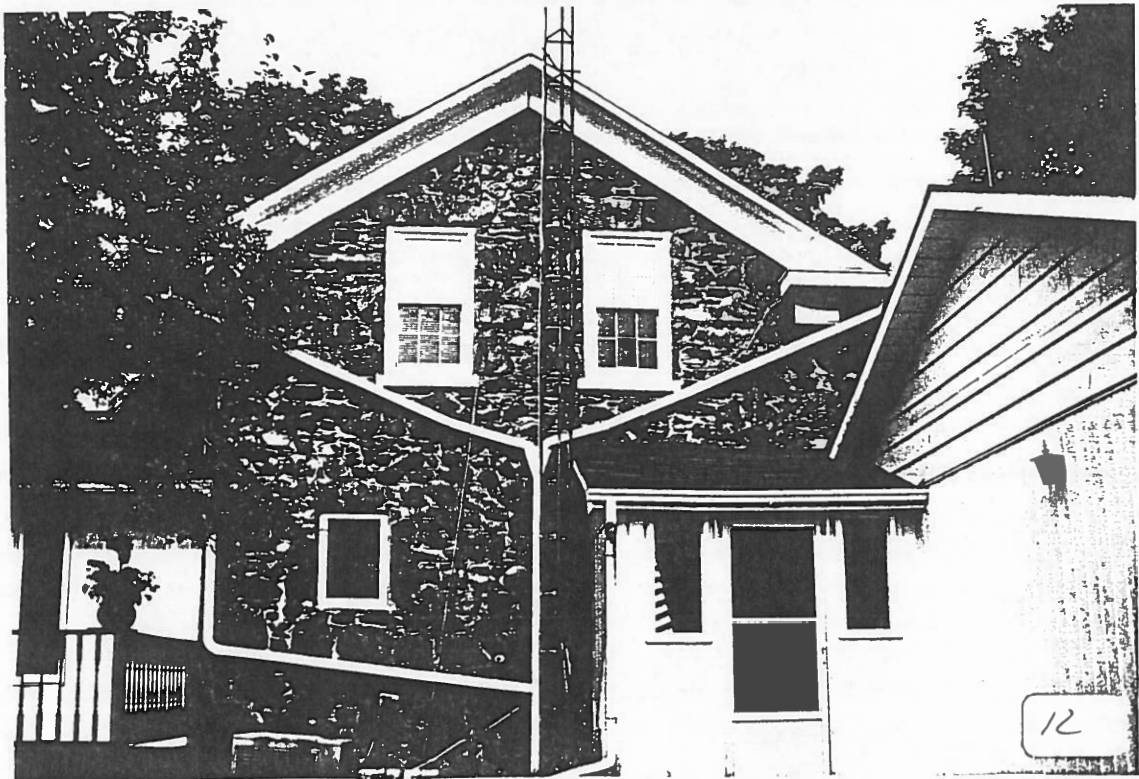
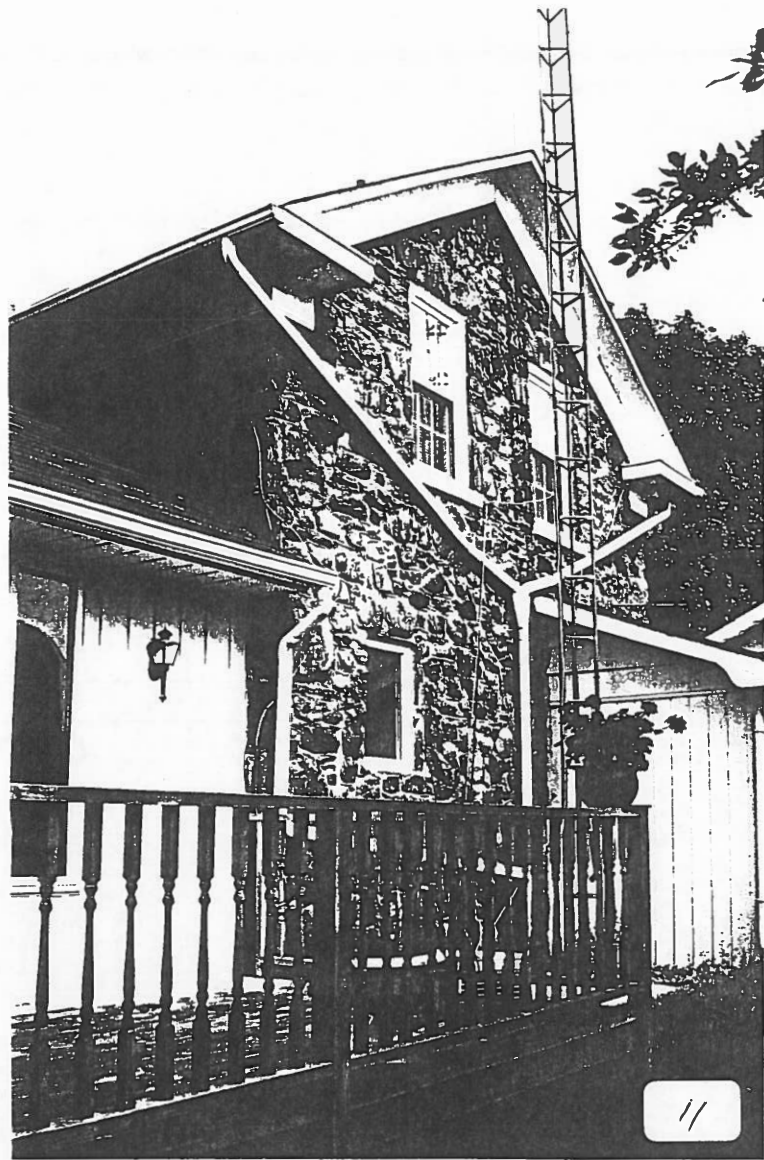


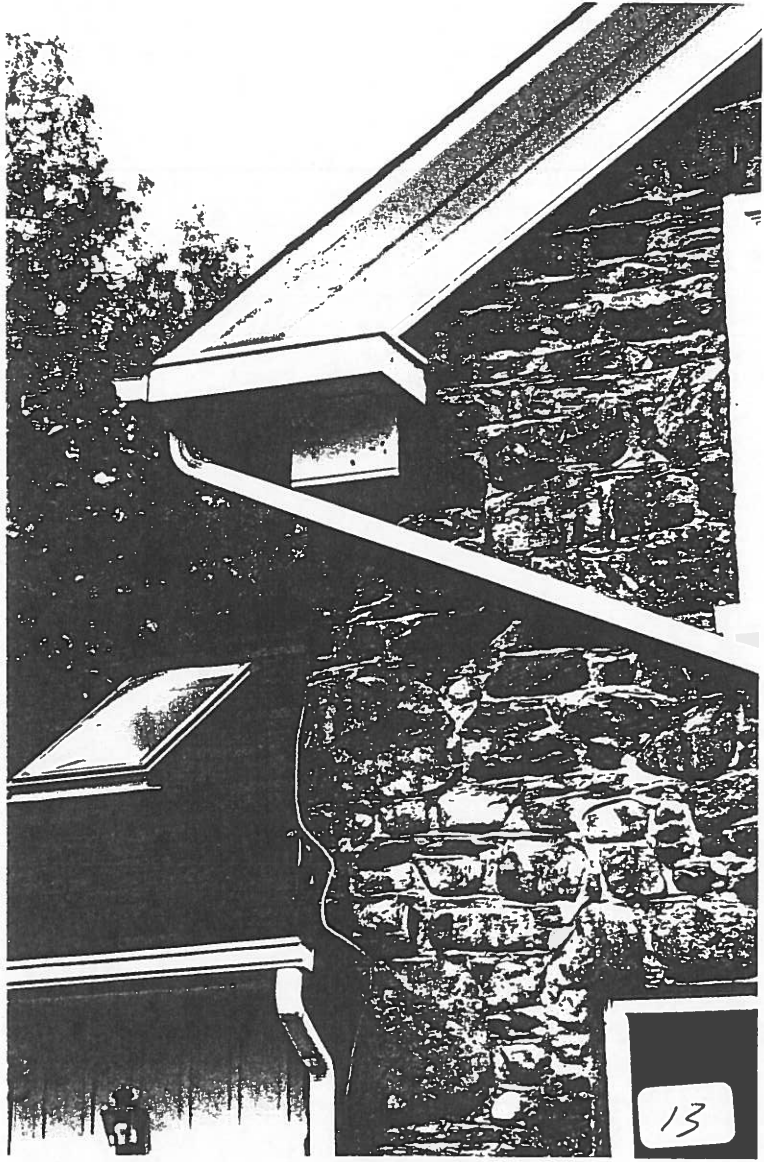












## SOURCES

Conveyances Abstract and related documents. *Durham Land Registrar's Office*

East Whitby census, 1851 to 1901. *Barrie Public Library*

Assistance of the Oshawa Community Archives

Information provided by the 2003 owner

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Blumenson, John. *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to present*. Toronto: 1990.