

## ***RESEARCH REPORT***



***1600 Conlin Road  
Oshawa***

**Prepared by Melissa Cole  
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## **Historical Attributes**

### ***Summary***

The dwelling at 1600 Conlin Road was most likely built in the mid to late nineteenth century. It is a fine example of Italianate architecture as featured in *The Canada Farmer* journal in 1865. It occupies a large lot facing south onto Conlin Road with beautifully landscaped gardens and mature vegetation.

### ***Early Lot History***

The subject property is on the south part of Lot 1, Concession 5, East Whitby Township, now within the City of Oshawa. The dwelling at 1600 Conlin Road is on the north side of Conlin Road, east of Townline Road and west of Harmony Road.

Patented by the crown in 1834 by Elizabeth Ault (spelling?) on April 9, 1839. It was not very usual for a female to receive a land grant. She sold the S ½ to Michael McErlean.

On March 6 1848, the SE ¼ was sold to William Bain. On January 11, 1851 the SW ¼ was sold to William Bain.

The 1877 East Whitby Map indicates that “Wm Bain” owned 112 acres on the south ½ of lot 1 between Concession 5 and Concession 6. His house is marked on lot 1, just north of the boundary for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Concessions. This is believed to be the subject dwelling which was most likely built by William Bain.

The 1881 census indicates that William Bain was 41 that year. He was born in Ontario, of English origin and a member of the Methodist Church. His wife Harriet, was 31, also born in Ontario, to English parents and adhered to the Methodist Church. Their children were Emily (15), Algenin W. (1) and Clarence Elmer 11 months.

The 1887 East Whitby Directory lists a William Bain as a freeholder of Concession 5, Lot 1.

The 1901 census indicates that William Bain was head of the household, 59 years of age and was still farming. He lived with his wife Harriet who was 56. Their children were William, 26 is listed as a clerk, Emily 34 and Clarence, 20. Also listed in the household are servant Leslie E. (last name illegible), 18 years of age, of Scottish origin and a member of the Presbyterian Church and Arthur Thompson who was a farm servant, 19 years of age, of Irish origin and a member of the Presbyterian Church.

The date of construction of the subject dwelling is between 1870 and 1880.

### ***Recent and Current Owners***

#### **Lee Family**

The 1901 census lists a Wm Frederick Lee age 42, was born in Ontario, of English origin and a member of the Methodist Church. He was a farmer. He lived with his wife Blanches and their children Hermia, 12, Frank 11, John Sr. 9, Reta, 5 and Ross E. 4.

The 112 ½ acre parcel was sold by the Bain Family in March 1919 to a William Frederick Lee for \$85 000.00.

In 1948 Wm. Frederick Lee sold the property to his son Ross E. Lee and wife. In 1961 the 112 acres was sold to Brian Ross Lee, most likely a descendant or son of Ross E. Lee because of the use of the name “Ross”. Further research on the current owners may indicate if the home still belongs to a descendant of the Lee Family. The Lee Family has been associated with this community since the mid 1800’s.

## **Architectural Attributes**

### ***Architectural Background***

Unique to Ontario is a design for a two storey square residence with projecting eaves and ornate cornice brackets promoted by *The Canada Farmer* journal in 1865. This residence provided a classical alternative to the Gothic Cottage. Italianate residences often have a frontispiece, large sash windows, quoins and ornate detailing on the windows and roof brackets. Classical elements are used, but in a secondary role.

This dwelling is a wonderful example of one of these homes built according to the plans set out in *The Canada Farmer* journal. People wanted a large home, many bedroomed house that had interesting detailing. It is a two storey rectangular building with a medium hip roof, projecting frontispiece, dichromatic quoins, and generous eaves with ornate cornice brackets. There was no pattern book or main architect promoting this particular style.

### ***Style and Form***

The main façade faces south onto Conlin Road East and is a great example of one of the homes built according to the plans that were set out in *The Canada Farmer* journal in 1865. This particular home is a two-storey red brick rectangular building with a medium pitched hip roof. It features a projecting frontispiece, generous eaves with ornate cornice brackets and yellow bricks accent the corners of the home on all facades creating a dichromatic effect.

### ***Architectural Details***

#### ***Entranceway***

The centre entrance door case is simple in design, the door contains a multi paned window on the upper portion and the lower portion is paneled. There is a simple door surround, classical in design.

#### ***Masonry***

The dwelling is clad in red brick that is laid in stretcher courses with yellow brick quoins on the corners, base of the chimneys and above the foundation creating a dichromatic effect. The foundation is fieldstone.

The north façade features a one storey extension that is covered in either fieldstone or slate.

### ***Window Openings***

The windows are simple sash windows with brick soldier heads. The frames and lugsills appear to be made of wood and above each window is an eyebrow like window cornice.

The existing windows contain 2x2 simple sash windows in keeping with the symmetry on each facade.

The frontispiece contains 2x2 simple sash windows on the east and west sides and a single round headed window on the second storey and 1x1 sash round headed window.

The rear extension features 6x6 sash windows. All sashes appear to be original except for the windows on the back wing.

### ***Roof***

The characteristic component of the Italianate style is the hip roof. This particular dwelling contains a medium pitched hip roof with side dormers and a two tall original double chimneys located on the west and east side of the roof. The roof cladding is modern and features brown metal.

### ***Additions***

An addition was added to the north east side of the dwelling. The exact date of this addition is unknown. It was most likely added at a later date since the cladding and foundation materials differ. The addition is either cladded in fieldstone or slate. The addition is sympathetic in design.

### ***Condition***

The current owner has been conscientious in the repair and maintenance of this dwelling. All modifications are in keeping with the original style and incorporate historical materials. Original elements have been retained, where possible, replaced only as needed. Still standing at the rear of the home is a storage shed or carriage house, constructed in the board and batten style, reflective of life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Summary of Significant Heritage Attributes**

### ***Historical Significance***

A dwelling in this location has been a landmark since the mid nineteenth century. This home is a fine example of a Italianate home that was featured in *The Canada Farmer Journal*. This particular style was unique to Ontario and was promoted in this journal in 1865. This beautiful two-storey dwelling with projecting frontispiece covered with a medium hip roof with a deck and a gothic like gable trimmed with vergeboard. This home is representative of mid-nineteenth century Victorian Ontario.

### ***Significant Architectural Attributes***

The following noteworthy features make this dwelling an excellent example of an Italianate interpretation of *The Canada Farmer* house.

- large cornice brackets
- formal balance of parts
- Gothic-like gable with vergeboards
- Original brick quoins
- Hip roof with deck
- Eyebrowlike segmentally arched window cornices
- Large paned sash-type windows
- Use of contrasting brick colours – dichromatic
- Original tall multiple flue chimneys

## ***Contextual Attributes***

The Lee Family have been associated with East Whitby since the 1850's and were among some of the earliest settlers in this particular area of Oshawa which was located just east of the area that was known as the Community of Kedron. This area was surveyed in 1831. Details given in the Historical atlas of Ontario County, published in 1877 reads as follows: “On the extreme east of the township, Government cut out one of the road allowances two rods wide (the present Ritson Road) as far as the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession in 1831, and nearly all that section of the township was settled in that and the following years....” Family names of early settlers and outstanding members of the community were, Lee, Gould, Pickle, Beggs, Ken, **Hepburn**, Ratcliffe, Ormiston and Bishop.

This particular style was unique to Ontario. The Canada Farmer journal presented this style of home to both the rural and farming communities, it was a house is representative of mid-nineteenth century Victorian Ontario. People wanted a larger home with lots of bedroom that had interesting detailing. This beautifully maintained Italianate home survives on a large lot with mature vegetation.

## ***Resources***

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

Bain, Genealogy File, Oshawa Community Archives

Beers, J.H. & Co. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of County of Ontario*. Toronto: 1877

Christi Scott, Telephone Interview, August 2009

Conveyances Abstract. Durham Regional Land Registrar's Office, Whitby.

East Whitby Township census, 1851-1891. Oshawa Community Archives

East Whitby Township census, 1901. [www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet)

Lee, Genealogy File, Oshawa Community Archives

[www.ontarioarchitecture.com](http://www.ontarioarchitecture.com)

## *Appendix*



*East Façade, 1600 Conlin Road, September 2009*



*South Façade, 1600 Conlin Road, August 2009*