

## ***RESEARCH REPORT***



*Photo Source: Gallery 282*

## ***“Martinscroft”***

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***840 Howden Road  
Oshawa***

**Prepared by Melissa Cole  
September 2010**

## Historical Attributes

### Summary

Along the shores of Lake Ontario small communities were popping up. The escarpment provided a good source of stone. Fieldstone is found on many of the mid-nineteenth century homes that were built in the surrounding area of East Whitby just outside of the area known at one time as the Village of Oshawa.

The dwelling at 840 Howden Road was most likely built in the early to mid nineteenth century. Other stone houses in the area have been dated 1850 to 1875. The house represents two phases of construction, frame and stone, both now appearing to have Gothic Revival style influence. The architectural integrity, the house and yard maintain a timeless historic presence in the area. The home was built by Richard Martin and was known as *Martinscroft*. The name most likely originates from Richard Martin, the original owner of the home.

### Early Lot History

The subject property is on the south west ¼ of Lot 6, Concession 8, East Whitby Township, now within the City of Oshawa. The dwelling at 840 Howden Road is on the south side of Howden Road, east of Ritson Road North and West of Townline Road.

The 50 acres of the SW ¼ of lot no. 6 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Concession was patented from the crown on November 6, 1859 by Richard Martin.

The 1851 census lists Richard Martin, a farmer, who was born in England, residing with his wife Mary 53, and their children John 16, a labourer (most likely on his father's farm), Joseph 15 and George 10. John was born in England and the other two were born in Upper Canada. They lived in a 1 storey stone dwelling. This is possibly the original section of the home located at 840 Howden Road.

The 1877 East Whitby Map indicates that "G Martin" owned 55 acres on the south west½ of lot 1 between Concession 5 and Concession 6. J. McKenzie owned 50 acres on the south east half. The dwelling is marked on lot 6 on the south west ¼ just north of the boundary for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Concessions. This is believed to be the subject dwelling which was possibly built by Richard Martin.

The 1887 Ontario Directory lists George Martin as a freeholder of Concession 8, Lot 6.

The 1891 census lists George Martin 49, a farmer, who was born in England, residing with Rebecca 46, who was born in Prince Edward Island, L. Frances 22, was a blacksmith, H. William

19 was a farmer and M. Mary 17. All the children were born in Ontario. Unfortunately it does not list what type of dwelling they were residing in. Although we can assume that George is most likely the son of Richard and Mary Martin who were listed in the 1851 census as residing in a 1 storey stone dwelling.

According to the Land Registry Documents the home remained in the Martin Family until approximately 1898 when it was sold by Christopher Hodgson (designer) and George Martin & wife and John McKenzie to William Glenney who sold the property to John Stark in 1902 for \$5000.

M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec. 14(1)

[REDACTED]

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

M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec. 14(1)

[REDACTED]

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<sup>1</sup> The date 1976 is approximate based on an email from current owners and the land registry documents.

## **Architectural Attributes**

### ***Date of Construction***

The dwelling at 840 Howden Road was most likely built in the early nineteenth century. Many of the fieldstone dwellings in the area were built around circa 1850. The home was built by Richard Martin and was called *Martinscroft*. The name most likely originates from Richard Martin, the original owner of the home.

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

This house began its life as a modest storey and one half fieldstone farm house built in a 3 bay Georgian Vernacular style. Its form had a central door flanked by 6 over 6 windows. A simple gable roof was anchored at each end by chimneys. Currently the form is two protruding fieldstone bays with an inset central form all with gable roofs. The inset contains a central entranceway to the home which features a gabled roofline with a finial.

## ***Architectural Details***

### **Foundation**

The foundation is fieldstone on the original section of the home.

### **Wall Cladding**

The rear extension or one storey addition on the north façade is cladded in board and batten.

### **Roof**

The medium gabled roof with returned eaves is cladded in asphalt.

### **Chimneys**

The existing chimney is covered in red brick and sits of the west end of the roof. It is not the original chimney – the original chimneys have been removed.

### **Window Openings**

#### **Stone Section**

All window openings are flat with covered lugsills and frames. Large stone soldier course appear over all the door and window openings. The window openings on the east and west façade feature 4 over 4 double hung sashes. The window openings on the front south façade feature six

over six double hung sash. All sashes have been replaced but are sympathetic to resemble the design of the original sashes.

The inset section of the home contains a pointed arched window opening on the west gable which resembles the Gothic style.

### **Board and Batten Extension**

The windows on this section of the building are also six over six which is sympathetic with the window openings that are on the stone section of the home.

### **Entranceways**

The original entranceway featured a central door flanked by 6 over 6 windows. There is another entranceway with a gable roof containing a pointed arch window opening, located on the west façade within the inset portion of the dwelling.

### **Additions**

The original section of the house consisted of the front section only. The next section was added in the 1860's by the Martin Family. The stone featured on these two sections is fieldstone laid in random courses. The courses on the main (south) section are less regular than on the north section which is an indication that they were most likely not built at the same time. Another addition, the board and batten portion, was added in 1976 by the M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec. 14(1) family.

There is another building on the property, an outbuilding, separate from the dwelling that resembles the board and batten extension of the home. It was most likely built at the same time as the extension on the home. This outbuilding is used as the photography studio for *Gallery 282* that is run by the current home owners M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec. 14(1).

### **Condition**

The small house has been added to create a larger living space. The earlier additions are clad in fieldstone and have simple gable roofs similar to the original house and the later additions are clad in board and batten. The completed series of wings to the house celebrate the original stone house transforming what was once a modest stone farmhouse into an elegant and picturesque rural composition.

## Summary of Significant Heritage Attributes

### ***Historical Significance***

Along the shores of Lake Ontario small communities were popping up. The escarpment provided a good source of stone and relatively easy access to a major waterway providing glass and other building materials from England and later the United States. Fieldstone is found on many of the mid-nineteenth century homes that were built in the surrounding area of East Whitby just outside of the area known at one time as the Village of Oshawa.

The dwelling at 840 Howden Road was most likely built in the early to mid nineteenth century. Many of the fieldstone dwellings in the area were built around circa 1850. The home was built by Richard Martin, who was farming the land as early as 1820. The home was known as *Martinscroft* and is still referred to as this name the current owners of the home. The name most likely originates from Richard Martin, the original owner of the home.

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

- One and a half storey classic revival design with centrally positioned main entrance.
- Stone construction with original fieldstone foundation
- Pointed arch window opening in the west inset gable has Gothic Revival style
- Existing simple door case reflective of the classic revival style.
- Gothic Revival style evident in the additions.
- Double stone and frame building.
- Natural face fieldstone in random courses.

### ***Contextual Attributes***

The dwelling at 840 Howden Road was most likely built in the early to mid nineteenth century. Many of the fieldstone dwellings in the area were built around circa 1850. The home was built by Richard Martin, who was farming the land as early as 1820. The home was known as *Martinscroft* and is still referred to as this name by the current owners of the home. The name most likely originates from Richard Martin, the original owner of the home.

The current owners of the home are **M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec. 14(1)**

**[REDACTED]**. The 5 acre estate contains extensive landscaping including perennial gardens and mature trees which serve as a beautiful backdrop for the home

**M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec. 14(1)**

## Resources

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

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

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)

Genealogy File, Oshawa Community Archives

Interview with current owner. September 2010

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



## Appendix



*South Façade, 840 Howden Road, Oshawa, September 2010*



*East Façade, 840 Howden Road, Oshawa, September 2010*



*West Façade, North Stone Addition, September 2010*



*Front Façade looking north, September 2010*