

**344 Thornton Road North**  
**Research Report**

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**PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
344 THORNTON ROAD NORTH  
OSHAWA, ON**

**SITE DESCRIPTION**

Construction Date:	Completed 1840
Architectural Style:	Gothic
Architect:	Unknown
Original Use:	Private Residence
Present Use:	Private Residence

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Plan:	Reverse "L" shape
Foundation:	Stone
Exterior Wall:	Originally Brick; Currently Rough Cast
Roof Type:	Gable Roof
Windows:	Flat Rectangle

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Roof Addition:	Projecting Gable on South Side
East Wall Windows:	Have 18 Panes

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**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**FAMILY HOME**

The patent to this property dates 1798 to Maria A. and L.B. DeNiverville, who, in 1828 began to sell off parcels of land.

Jesse Starr was the first to purchase part of the property only to sell it two years later in 1830 to Major Allman. Ten years later (1840), Allman sold it to James Hunter who sold it one year later (1841) to Robert Muggeridge. This same year, Muggeridge sold it to Edward French.

Edward French was a native of Massachusetts, who when he first came to Oshawa settled on the 5<sup>th</sup> concession just northwest of Oshawa. Edward was a merchant in Oshawa for a number of years – he kept a store on the north side of King Street until he and his family left Oshawa to resettle in Michigan. Edwards brother Isaac, who also owned property in East Whitby since 1835, purchased 39 acres on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession, Lot 16 in 1846 that was located just across the street from Edward.

In 1852, Edward French sold the property to Edmund Cooper. Edmund was born in the U.S.A in 1804 and came to Canada circa 1830. He was a highly respectable citizen and for many years a deacon of the Oshawa Christian Church. When Edmund bought the property from Edward French, he was married to Phoebe French (perhaps a daughter of Edward French?) who was twenty-three years his junior. Edmund Cooper died in October 1859 and the property was left to his family. In 1863 a quick claim was given to Joseph E. Gould, who in 1862 married Phoebe Cooper, the widow of the late Edmund Cooper.

Mr. Joseph Gould was born in Somerset, England in 1832 and came to Canada in 1848 where he settled in the Township of East Whitby. In the spring of 1850 he moved to the United States and engaged successfully for years in the droving business. He returned to Canada in 1862 and shortly afterwards married Phoebe Cooper. Gould was a shrewd businessman, and his advice and counsel were sought by many, and freely given. For many years he was a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of the High Court of Justice, Conveyancer, etc., and for four or five years was Secretary of the Northumberland and Durham Grange. Joseph Gould died on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1886 in his 54<sup>th</sup> year and is buried in Union Cemetery in Oshawa.

In 1877, Edward Cooper (age 22 years), the son of Phoebe and the late Edmund Cooper, bought the property back from his step-father, Joseph Gould – a total of 47 ½ acres.

The home has remained in the family for several generations. The current owners of the home, who also reside in it, are the descendants of Phoebe French and Edmund Cooper.

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**ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND**

**PRIVATE HOME**

The house located at 344 Thornton Road North sits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession on Lot 17 in what was originally East Whitby Township.

While the home does not sit very far back from the road, large evergreen trees and overgrown shrubs hide the front façade. Currently the home has a roughcast exterior, but it is believed that it was originally brick (according to the 1851 Census). The rear of the house (the elongated rectangular section) is an addition to the home, believed to have been built in the early 1890's.

The windows around the original part of the homestead are a flat rectangular style of a uniform size and are set into a wood frame. The windows that face Thornton Road however, differ slightly in that they have 18 panes of glass rather than 12 like the others. The windows that are on the addition are smaller and do not have a uniform shape or size.

The door on the north side of the home has beautiful wood moulding around it and is topped with both a lintel and a hood.

The addition has two large openings that are currently being used as a garage. It is assumed that they would have served this same purpose for the owner's carriages when the addition was constructed.

Unfortunately, no conclusive evidence as to who the architect was of the original part of neither the home nor the addition could be found.

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**SOURCES**

**Assessment Office.** Durham Region Property Assessment.

**Census.** Ontario County, Whitby Township, 1851

**Census.** Ontario County, East Whitby, 1861.

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Grandfield, Diana. **Bowmanville: an architectural and social history.**  
Bowmanville: Municipality of Clarington, 1999.

**Land Registry Office.** Durham Region, Whitby.

**Oshawa Community Archives.** Vertical Files and Maps.

**Pedlar Papers Manuscript.** Frames 217; 252; 254

**Photographer,** Raymond Robinson.

