

Address _____	Community _____
Also known as _____ Legal Description _____	
P.I.N. _____	Roll No. _____ Ward _____ Neighbourhood _____

**Heritage Status:** ☐ Inventory ☐ Registered ☐ Designated (Part IV / Part V) ☐ Easement (City / OHT) ☐ NHS  
HCD (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural Heritage Landscape (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Status (Observed):** ☐ Occupied Building ☐ Vacant Building ☐ Vacant Lot ☐ Parking Lot

**Integrity:** ☐ Preserved / Intact ☐ Modified ☐ Compromised ☐ Demolished (date) \_\_\_\_\_

**Construction Period:** ☐ Pre 1867 ☐ 1868-1900 ☐ 1901-1939 ☐ 1940-1955 ☐ 1956-1970 ☐ Post 1970  
Year (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Architect / Builder / Craftsperson (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Massing:** ☐ Single-detached ☐ Semi-detached, related ☐ Semi-detached, unrelated ☐ Row, related ☐ Row, unrelated ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Storeys:** ☐ 1 ☐ 1 ½ ☐ 2 ☐ 2 ½ ☐ 3 ☐ 3 ½ ☐ 4 or more ☐ Irregular ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Foundation Construction Material:** ☐ Stone ☐ Brick ☐ Concrete ☐ Wood ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Finish: \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Construction Material:** ☐ Brick ☐ Frame (wood) ☐ Stone ☐ Log ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Finish: \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Cladding:** ☐ Wood ☐ Stone ☐ Brick ☐ Stucco ☐ Synthetic ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Finish: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roof Type:** ☐ Hip ☐ Flat ☐ Gambrel ☐ Mansard ☐ Gable ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roof Materials:** ☐ Asphalt Shingle ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Slate ☐ Tile/Terra Cotta ☐ Tar/Gravel ☐ Metal ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Architectural Style / Influence:

- |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Deco / Moderne<br>(1920s-1950s)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chateau<br>(1880-1940)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic Revival<br>(1830-1900) | <input type="checkbox"/> Neo-Gothic<br>(1900-1945)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Romanesque Revival<br>(1850-1910) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaux-Arts Classicism<br>(1900-1945) | <input type="checkbox"/> Craftsman / Prairie<br>(1900s-1930s) | <input type="checkbox"/> International<br>(1930-1965)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Period Revivals<br>(1900-Present) | <input type="checkbox"/> Second Empire<br>(1860-1900)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brutalism<br>(1960-1970)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Colonial Revival<br>(1900-Present)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian Villa<br>(1830-1900)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Modern<br>(1970-Present)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow<br>(1900-1945)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Edwardian<br>(1900-1930)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Italianate<br>(1850-1900)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Queen Anne<br>(1880-1910)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Victory Housing<br>(1940-1950)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classic Revival<br>(1830-1860)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Georgian / Loyalist<br>(1784-1860)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Neo-Classical<br>(1800-1860)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Regency<br>(1830-1860)            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1950s Contemporary<br>(1945-1965) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                          |   |  |  |  |

**Notable Building Features:**

- |   |   |                                      |                                      |   |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Porch: _____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sill(s): _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tower/Spire | <input type="checkbox"/> Bargeboard  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eaves: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verandah: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lintel(s): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Dome        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transom     | <input type="checkbox"/> Verges: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balcony: _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Finial      | <input type="checkbox"/> Side light  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dormer: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door(s) : _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Quoins: _____    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pilaster    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pediment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Chimney: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stairs: _____    | <input type="checkbox"/> Voussoirs: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital     | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodwork    | <input type="checkbox"/> Parapet: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire wall: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornice: _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Panel       | <input type="checkbox"/> Date stone  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bay: _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows: _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Column           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cresting    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |   |

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Context:**Historic Context Statement: ☐ Yes ☐ No Name of HCS Area: \_\_\_\_\_☐ Streetscape (Residential / Commercial) ☐ Terrace / Row ☐ Complex / Grouping ☐ Landmark☐ Multi-address parcel (list addresses): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_☐ Related buildings: \_\_\_\_\_**Plan:** ☐ Square ☐ Rectangular ☐ L ☐ U ☐ T ☐ H ☐ Cross ☐ Irregular ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_**Wings:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Setback:** ☐ Shallow ☐ Deep ☐ At ROW ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Corner Lot**Accessory Features and Structures:**☐ Features (e.g. stone wall, fountain): \_\_\_\_\_☐ Structures (e.g. shed, outbuilding): \_\_\_\_\_**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_**Related Files:** \_\_\_\_\_**Fire Insurance Mapping:** 1898 Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ 1911 Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ 1949 Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ 1964 Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_**Additional Documentation and Research Attached (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

Surveyed by:	Date:	Survey Area:
Staff Reviewer:	Date:	

# PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

<b>Physical / Design Value:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property's style, type or expression is: <input type="checkbox"/> rare <input type="checkbox"/> unique <input type="checkbox"/> representative <input type="checkbox"/> early
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property displays a high degree of: <input type="checkbox"/> craftsmanship <input type="checkbox"/> artistic merit
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property demonstrates a high degree of: <input type="checkbox"/> technical achievement <input type="checkbox"/> scientific achievement
<b>Historical / Associative Value:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property has direct associations with a potentially significant: <input type="checkbox"/> theme <input type="checkbox"/> event <input type="checkbox"/> belief <input type="checkbox"/> person <input type="checkbox"/> activity <input type="checkbox"/> organization <input type="checkbox"/> institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of a potentially significant: <input type="checkbox"/> architect <input type="checkbox"/> artist <input type="checkbox"/> building <input type="checkbox"/> designer <input type="checkbox"/> theorist
<b>Contextual Value:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property is important in: <input type="checkbox"/> defining <input type="checkbox"/> maintaining <input type="checkbox"/> supporting the character of the area
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property is linked to its surroundings: <input type="checkbox"/> physically <input type="checkbox"/> functionally <input type="checkbox"/> visually <input type="checkbox"/> historically
<input type="checkbox"/>	The property is a landmark

## Classification:

- ☐ Significant Built Resource (SBR)
- ☐ Character-Defining Resource (CDR)
- ☐ Character-Supporting Resource (CSR)
- ☐ Inventory Property (IP)
- ☐ Remove from Inventory (RFI)
- ☐ None

## Recommendation:

- ☐ Add to Designation Work Plan
- ☐ Include in Register (Non-designated)
- ☐ Remove from Register (Non-designated)
- ☐ Add to Inventory – Periodic Review
- ☐ Inventory – No Further Review (Non-extant)
- ☐ No Action Required

<b>Evaluated by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>HMHC Advice:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Planning Committee Advice:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Council Decision:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Database/GIS Update:</b>	<b>AMANDA Update:</b>

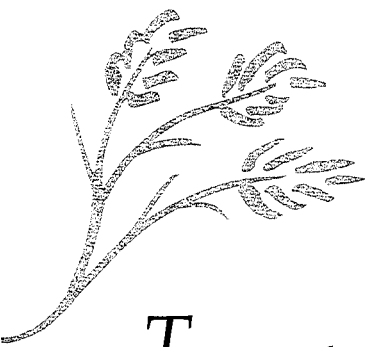


*from West Flamborough's storied past*

*A celebration of  
West Flamborough Township's heritage*







## Crooks' Hollow

Today, only the ghostly ruins of the famous Darnley Mill remain as evidence of the historic past of a small section of the Spencer Creek Valley that is known as Crooks' Hollow. Dominated by the endeavours of James Crooks, this part of West Flamborough Township was once one of the most important industrial sites in Upper Canada, fuelling the economy and attracting skilled tradesmen and settlers during the first half of the nineteenth century.

In this area, the Spencer Creek, originally known as Flamboro' or Morden's Creek, quickly gathers speed as it flows through the valley, dropping nearly one hundred feet in a stretch of three miles before its great descent at Webster's Falls. This provided the power that resulted in the array of mills and factories being erected along the banks of the stream during this industrial age. Dams at eight different locations were constructed to control the stream during this period, which began with the arrival of the Mordens before the final surveying of the township was even completed.

Jonathan Morden, a sawyer by profession, was the first settler to recognize the potential value of the creek. He erected the first sawmill on the Flamboro' Creek before his death in 1803. Serving incoming settlers during the first decades of the century, Morden's Sawmill provided most of the timber required for homes and businesses from the abundant stands of white pine in the surrounding countryside. About 1841, Jonathan's son, 'Big Jim' Morden, added a grist mill to the family's holdings and the two mills were continuously operated by his son and grandson until the first decade of the twentieth century.

James Crooks, a prominent Niagara-on-the-Lake merchant, first visited the area in 1805 looking for property and suitable mill sites. Concerned about deteriorating relations with the United States and

the proximity of his businesses to the American border, he purchased 400 acres on either side of the Spencer Creek and west of the Morden holdings from the Hon. Peter Russell. By 1813 he had a large grist mill, the Darnley Mill, in operation and was well paid by the British Army for his efforts in supplying flour to the troops during the War of 1812.

During the next fifteen years, James Crooks transformed this part of the valley that came to bear his name into the "industrial heartland of Upper Canada." Once the hostilities of war had ceased,

Crooks' energy sparked "a frenzy of development." Between 1818 and 1830 the extent and variety of businesses that he had established formed "an industrial empire that was unrivalled during its time." Over a dozen different establishments were created, all of them filling the needs of the early pioneer community. The list included a distillery; a mill for extracting linseed



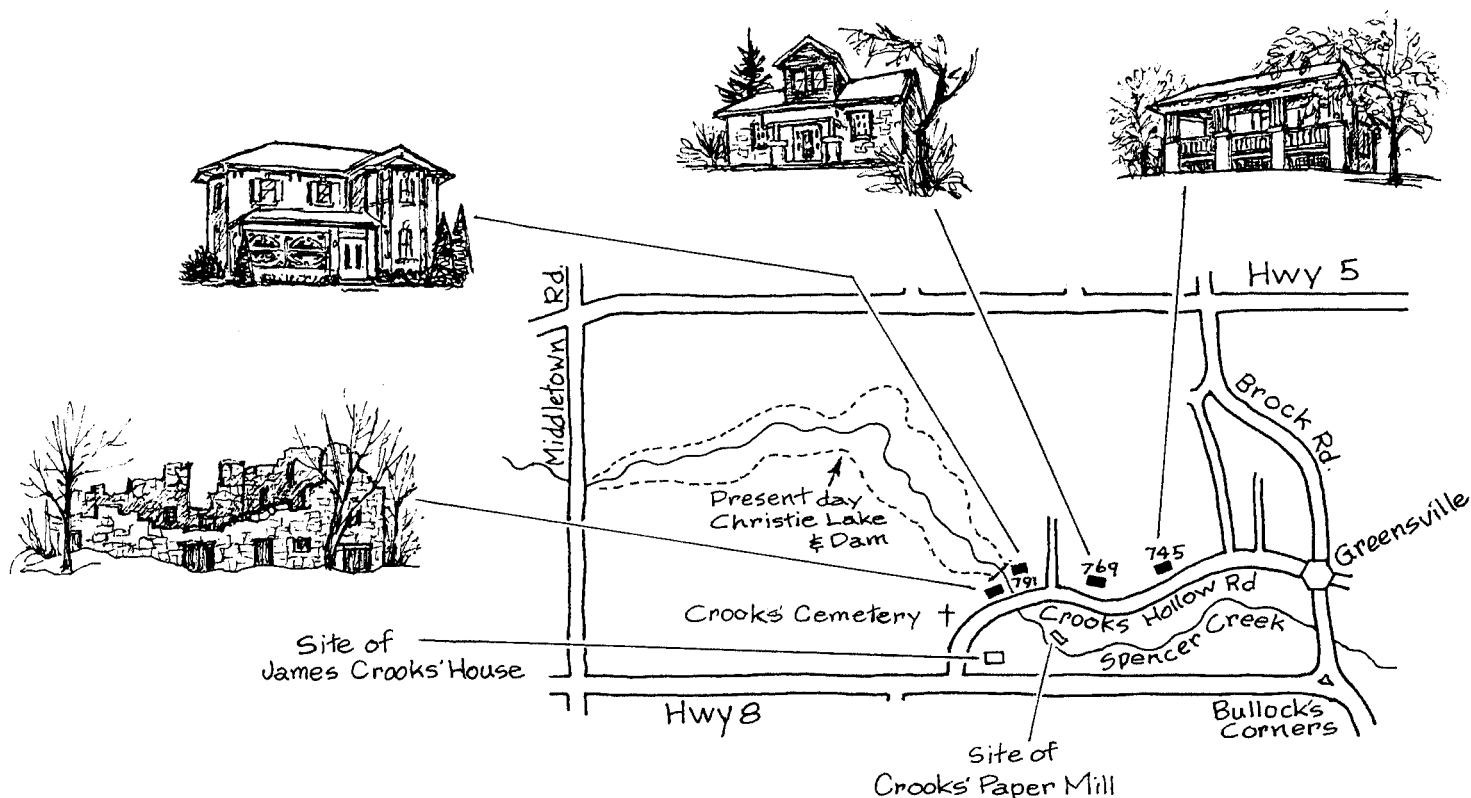
Mrs. James Crooks



Mr. James Crooks

oil, a sawmill, an oatmeal mill, a cooperage, a carding cloth factory, a fulling and dyeing works, a tannery, a woollen mill, an ashery where black salts or crude potash were refined into pearl ash, an axe, hoe and scything factory, a plaster mill for grinding plaster of Paris, a foundry; an ox-shoeing stall, a general store, an inn, a blacksmith shop and even housing for his workers.

Of all Crooks' numerous ventures and interests, his greatest fame came from the building and operating of Upper Canada's first paper mill. Although paper had been produced in Lower Canada since 1804, there was no factory capable of making white paper in Upper Canada. On 23 January 1826, at a meeting of the Executive Council in Toronto, William Lyon Mackenzie proposed that a bounty of £125 should be awarded to "the first person or persons who shall build a Mill and machinery for the purpose of making and manufacturing paper in this Province and carry the same into successful operation."



## Crooks' Hollow

Ever the astute business man, Crooks must have been aware that success might provide him with the opportunity to obtain the provincial paper monopoly. He immediately began construction of a mill downstream from the Darnley Mill, employing stone mason Joseph Barber, a recent immigrant from County Antrim, Ireland. One major problem initially stalled Crooks' plans. In 1826, the manufacture of such paper depended, not upon wood pulp, but upon a secure and abundant supply of good quality cotton and linen rags, which were unavailable in the immediate and still sparsely populated vicinity of Crooks' Hollow. In an attempt to solve the problem, he drafted an advertisement in March that appeared in *The Gleaner*, a Niagara area newspaper: "The Subscriber, having in view the erection of a Paper Mill ... solicits the patronage of the public in supplying rags sufficient to keep the same in full employment ... The advantages to this colony from the establishment of a Paper Mill are so obvious and so numerous that the Subscriber hopes that persons to whom the value of rags may be no object will (from patriotic motives) lend their assistance ... otherwise, one great object, in establishing such a

manufacture, namely that of keeping money among the colonists, will be defeated."

The strongly worded patriotic request for support was successful. On 6 June 1826, a group of twenty West Flamborough Township residents signed an affidavit that appeared in *The Farmer's Journal* stating that "we have this day witnessed Mr. James Crooks' Paper Mill, in West Flamborough, in complete operation." The first samples of white paper were submitted in September and rejected, but on 1 December 1826, Crooks' second submission was deemed acceptable and he claimed the prize.

During its zenith, this manufacturing empire employed more than one hundred men, but as early as 1835, its premier position began to slowly decline due to the growing industrial development of nearby Dundas, Georgetown and Hamilton and the declining power of the creek. Holding shares in the Desjardins Canal Company, James Crooks boldly advocated that the canal be extended up through the escarpment to be linked with Crooks' Hollow in an attempt to preserve his empire but the project never materialized.

After Crooks' death in 1860, his sons chose not to continue the family's interests in West Flamborough. Through the terms of his will the paper mill was acquired by Thomas Helliwell, whose father, Lloyd, had managed it during the 1840s. In later years it was operated by a number of different owners, the Barnsleys and later the MacDonald Brothers, until 1875 when it was destroyed by fire.

During the years he lived in Flamborough, James Crooks became both a powerful and wealthy man. Besides his entrepreneurial interests, he also led an extremely active political life. He was named foreman of the jury at Ancaster's Bloody Assize in 1814 and represented West Flamborough as an elected member of the Upper Canada Legislative Assembly from 1821 until 1841. In 1841 he became an appointed member of the Legislative Council in the United Parliament of Canada East and Canada West and thus entitled to be called the Honourable James Crooks. During these years in the theatre of Upper Canada politics, he "sought to chart a moderate middle course, rejecting the spectre of rebellion in 1837 but lobbying to have a stronger measure of liberal democracy in the Province's parliament."

Today there is little physical evidence of the family's presence in the township. The fine home, which in 1835 was described by traveller John Armour as "very large and beautiful, with a gallery on each storey in front" was demolished in 1884 following the purchase of the property by John Weir Jr. The Crooks Family Cemetery on the hillside above Crooks Hollow Road, west of the Darnley Mill, where several members of the family were interred, including Crooks and his wife, became overgrown and virtually abandoned as the little industrial community slowly disappeared. In 1902, Crooks' grand-daughter Jane arranged for the bodies to be re-interred in Grove Cemetery, Dundas and a small monument erected.

As the twentieth century began, only the Morden mills and the Darnley Mill, operating as a paper mill for the Stutt family, remained from the great industrial era of Crooks' Hollow. All the other mills, factories, businesses and stores were gone – destroyed by fire or explosions, dismantled or left as crumbling ruins.



*Crooks' house – demolished 1884*



## 769 & 745 Crooks Hollow Road

Two neighbouring houses on Crooks Hollow Road have a long association with the famous Morden family of West Flamborough Township. Located on Lot 7, Concession 2, the houses were constructed facing the Spencer Creek and close to the mills that the family built soon after their arrival from New Jersey at the beginning of the 19th century.

The Morden family trace their ancestry back to 17th century Yorkshire, England. They emigrated to the American colonies in 1743, settling in Sussex County, New Jersey. During the Revolutionary War they were subjected to harassment, a loss of property, imprisonment and death, and as a result, several members moved northwards to Canada.

George Morden, born in 1740 and possibly related to the famous Ralph Morden, was accompanied by his son Jonathan and daughter Katherine when he entered the township about 1800. He eventually moved and settled in Ancaster. Katherine, married to Frederick Schram, a member of Butler's Rangers and West Flamborough Crown Patentee, settled in Uxbridge and Jonathan chose property in West Flamborough.

On 5 September 1801, Jonathan purchased Lot 7, Concession 2, which included a section of the Flamboro' Stream, from the Hon. Peter Russell for £75. The 200 acre lot was part of the enormous holdings awarded to the Hon. Peter Russell, following his appointment to the post of Receiver-General of the Province of Upper Canada and later as Administrator of the province following the departure of Lt. Governor John Graves Simcoe. Russell was granted 2,000 acres of property in Flamborough and Beverly Townships alone for his services to the British Crown, all of which were eventually sold for cash.

Documents existed that record Jonathan Morden came to Upper Canada with a free slave. The young man, whose name was Phil, was sold, together with the other family slaves, prior to the Morden's journey to Canada. On learning

that he was no longer owned by the Mordens, he begged to be allowed to accompany the family. He was re-purchased and when the family reached Canada, he was given his freedom and is said to have remained with them until his death.

Sawyers by trade, Jonathan and his only son James, or 'Big Jim' as he was called, constructed a sawmill on their property, reputedly the first mill to be erected on the upper section of the Flamboro' Stream. They built an earthen dike from each side of the creek which forced the water over a stone dam and into a millpond. From there a mill race carried the water to an undershot wheel installed to power the mill. While on his way to York, Jonathan died at Bates'

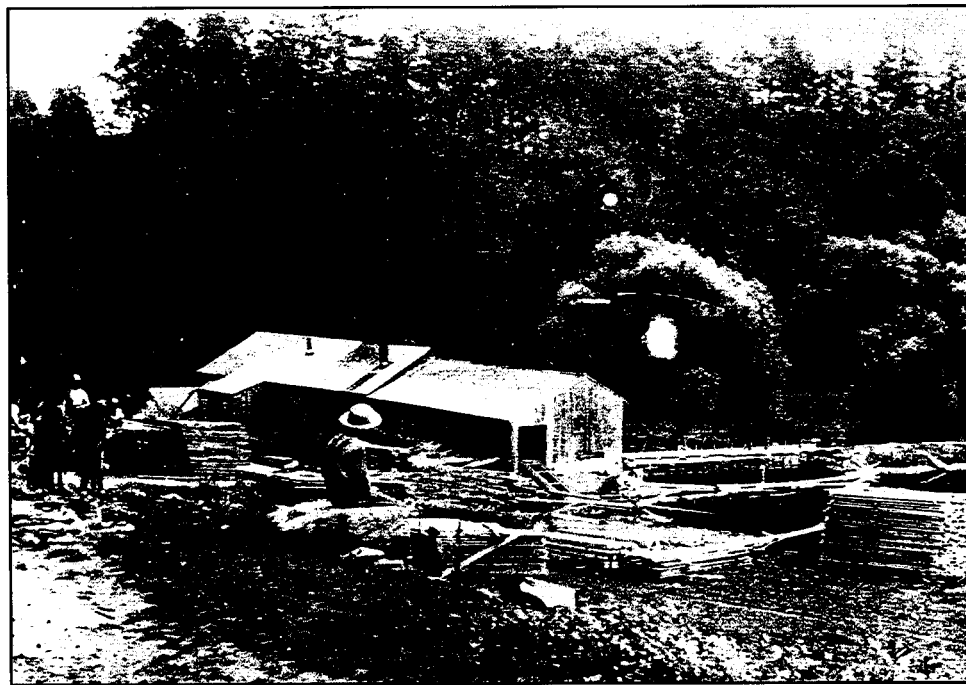
Tavern in Peel County in October 1803 and his holdings passed to his son, 'Big Jim'.

During the War of 1812, Morden's sawmill was probably one of the suppliers within the Flamboro' Creek watershed providing the timber required by the British troops for the construction of barracks and defences at Burlington Heights. 'Big Jim'

Morden added a

small grist mill, constructed of stone, to his holdings in 1841. After his death in 1873, his son Jonathan Jr. and grandson John McKinley Morden, operated these mills until the grist mill burned in 1905 and the sawmill was washed out by floods two years later. During the late 1880s and 1890s, the mill was renowned for the high-grade flour that was manufactured there under the direction of the miller, Frederick Trapp.

Jonathan Morden Jr. was involved with the daily running of the grist mill throughout his life and several stories about his famous method of book-keeping exist. His office was a table and chair behind the stair-case on the main floor of the mill. Here he would sit and oversee the various operations and meet with area farmers. He never made out an invoice for local trade, but "with his index finger would record in the dust on the wall the transaction and if the account was not paid before the continuing dust had obliterated the name, the person concerned received no more credit."



*Morden Sawmill on Spencer Creek c. 1884*

After the 1905 fire which destroyed the mill to the stone foundations, John McKinley Morden built a small chopping mill on the ruins and continued custom milling until 1915 when the property was sold to the town of Dundas, marking the end of the Morden family's involvement with milling operations on the Spencer Creek.

The two houses located on Lot 7 are examples of the very popular Ontario cottage which was built throughout the province from 1830 onwards. It developed from the Regency Cottage popularized in England in the 1820s by army officers returning from service in the Mediterranean and India. Such cottages were square in plan and characterized by a steeply pitched or hipped roof, which slanted in on all four sides, thus allowing space for an attic or additional sleeping quarters. The thick stone walls which had provided cool interiors in the tropics, now provided the insulation from Canadian winters.

The cottage at 769 Crooks Hollow Road was built by 'Big Jim' Morden following his marriage to Elizabeth Cochenour of Bullock's Corners and the arrival of a family of nine children between 1822 and 1837. The construction date of the cottage is uncertain, although on the mantle of a downstairs fireplace the date of 1840 is inscribed. The outer walls are a mixture of cut stone and broken course rubble stone, set off

by massive cut stone quoins, window lugsills and lintels. The transom above the front door has been replaced by a carved wooden fan, but the rest of the doorway retains its original features, the door itself being protected by an example of an early screen.

In 1909, the house and property were sold to William Royal Hopkins of East Flamborough and his wife, Sarah Adella Tunis. William retired from his position as a driver for ACME dairy and established a market garden with greenhouses on the property. During the family's ownership, the very large and awkward-looking dormer over the front of the house was added, reputedly to accommodate a member suffering from tuberculosis.

William and another family member, James E. Hopkins, as owners of the small pioneer Hopkins Burying Ground, located on the shoreline of Burlington Bay, arranged for it to be closed in 1930. The remains were re-interred in the Hamilton Cemetery on York Street and a monument to commemorate their ancestor, Captain Silas Hopkins, a United Empire Loyalist erected.

The second Morden cottage, possibly erected a decade later for Jonathan Morden Jr., his wife, Elizabeth McDougall McKinley and their large family, is very similar in style and design. This example of an Ontario cottage retains one of the



*769 Crooks Hollow Rd.*

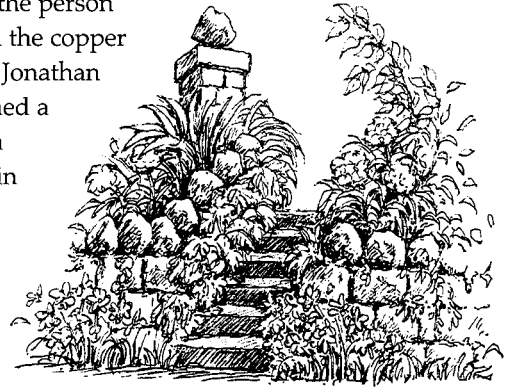
unique features of the style imported from England, that of an encircling front verandah, so popular with those who had resided in hotter climates.

Jonathan received ownership of the property through his father's will, but was almost certainly living there from about 1850. In December 1878, he was the central figure in a court case, appearing before a judge in Hamilton to answer the charge of having an illicit whiskey still on his premises. James Morden, son of the accused, swore that "his grandmother had willed him a still, similar to the one seized by the police, and about two years ago it had been stolen", and then returned by James Cochenour. James told the court that the still had been in the Morden family since the days of his great grandfather and when he first received it, he had put it in a hog-pen, where it had remained hidden for nine or ten months. The still was kept out of his father's sight, who, he was satisfied, "did not know he had been bequeathed it. The worm of the still had been destroyed and a few weeks previously he had given the still away and not seen it since."

The case was dismissed after the judge heard that the owners of a similar still in Crooks' Hollow had tried to make whiskey, but failed, producing only dirty water. In an

attempt to find the person who had placed the copper still in his barn, Jonathan Morden published a notice offering a reward of \$100 in *The Dundas Banner* for three consecutive issues in late December.

The notice also included a strongly worded affidavit in which Jonathan declared his innocence and informing everyone that Marshall Moxley had told him that the still produced in court, was his property, and that "the same had been stolen from his barn near Greenville, and that one James Cochenour, formerly a constable in the Township of West Flamboro', but lately dismissed from such office, had acknowledged that he had taken such still from Moxley's place."



745 Crooks Hollow Rd.







