

From: [Brunton, Miranda](#)
To: [Anne Newbigging](#); [Office of the Mayor](#)
Cc: [Holland, Andrea](#); Lloydferguson@hamilton.ca; [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: RE: Non-designated houses on the Municipal Heritage Register
Date: May 4, 2020 11:33:50 AM
Attachments: [1983 Ancaster LACAC Report.pdf](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Newbigging [REDACTED]
Sent: May 4, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Holland, Andrea <Andrea.Holland@hamilton.ca>; Lloydferguson@hamilton.ca; Brunton, Miranda
<Miranda.Brunton@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Non-designated houses on the Municipal Heritage Register

With respect to the motion proposed by Councillor Ferguson to include houses in the village core on the list of non-designated houses in the Municipal Heritage Register, I ask that my house be included despite the fact that it lives just outside the core. It should be noted that there are houses on the Old Dundas Road that are included in the list. I live at 558 Wilson St. East in the house built for the miller of the old mill. It was built in 1853 and is of stone construction in the typical "T" shaped farm house found in Ontario. The exterior of the house remains mainly unchanged, while improvements to amenities have been done inside. In 1983 LACAC prepared a report on the house and its historical importance. In 2017, the house qualified for a "Still Standing" sign in recognition of Canada's celebration of 150 years of nationhood.

Thank you your attention to my request, Anne Newbigging
Sent from my iPad

THE MILLER'S HOUSE



FRONT FACADE OF MILLER'S HOUSE
FACING WEST



SIDE VIEW OF MILLER'S HOUSE
FACING NORTH (WILSON ST.)

558 The Miller's House
~~580~~ Wilson St. E.
ANCASTER, Ont.

Research Report
prepared by
Summer LACAC
students of '83:

Tina Agnello
Michael Ward
Wanda Zsiros

Introduction

The Miller's House, located at ~~580~~⁵⁵⁸ Wilson St. East, is one of the many heritage homes in Ancaster that stands to mark the roots of our town and reminds us of the industry and hard work that gave Ancaster a history and a heritage to be proud of. This house, built in 1852 on a small section of land in Concession II, on lot 46, was originally part of the Old Mill property and was, in fact, built to house the miller of that same mill. The fact that the Miller's House does not even lie on the same side of Wilson St. as the Old Mill may be responsible for its now rather obscure relationship with the history of the Old Mill. Although its connection with the Old Mill is now and has long been broken, it is, nevertheless, and will always be a monument to Ancaster's history and heritage.

This report will include well-researched data (from books, maps, newspapers, and other documents), architectural designs and patterns, as well as photographs, maps, and sketches, in hopes that this building and its heritage may be conserved.

This is the purpose behind the establishment of the LACAC group. The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee has formed a chapter in Ancaster which has been in operation for six years now and which strives to maintain and conserve Ancaster's amazingly well-kept century-old homes. This report is to increase our awareness and our pride in our town and in our heritage.

Thank you.

HISTORY

The old Miller's House, which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy L. Newbigging, is located on Concession II, lot 46 and was originally part of a 400 acre Crown Grant. This Crown Land Patent was granted in 1791 to Richard Beasley, a Hamilton merchant, and James Wilson, one of the original twenty-two United Empire Loyalists who fled from America to settle in Ancaster township, and after whom Wilson St. is named. Eventually, the whole 400 acre plot including the Mill which had been built between 1788 and 1794 were sold to James Russell in 1849

In 1852, James Russell contracted James Russell of Jackson Mills in Caledonia to build the home on the east side of Wilson St. (what is now the Newbigging home and the old Miller's House). It was to be built in conformity with the design of the Mill, which was rebuilt in 1850 due to a fire. Due to the fire and a series of tragic accidents which caused him to lose both his arms and for the amputation of one of his daughter's arms, Russell put his operations in the hands of a trustee, Rev. John Jennings of Toronto, and returned to Scotland. (Terpstra report p 7)

In 1862, Harris and Alonzo Eggleston from New York state bought the property from James Russell's trustee. In 1868 Alonzo Eggleston sold his share of the mill and its holdings to his brother Harris, who lived in the Miller's House until 1888, at which time it was sold to James Jackson of Jackson Mills by Harris' widow, Elizabeth. It was at this time that the house, as a property, became independent of the Mill operations.

The Jackson family lived in the Miller's House (so named because Jackson was a miller) until 1958. When James Jackson died he left the house and property to his only child, Jennie, who continued to live there with her husband, Holly Robinson, until 1958 when she sold it to the Newbiggings. Mr. Newbigging, a professor at McMaster University continues to live there today with his family.

ARCHITECTURE

The Newbigging home is located at 558 Wilson St. East. The front facade of the building faces to the west with its back to the east and its sides facing north and south accordingly. The location of the site is on a .4 acre rolling hill directly off the south side of Wilson Street. The landscaping is modest with large trees around three-quarters of the perimeter for privacy. Its basic design is Upper Canadian Vernacular, being simplistic in style and form and containing elements of Georgian, gothic, and Regency design.

The exterior of the dwelling is very similar to the mill in construction. The house itself is only 1½ stories. Its "T" shaped structure is built of 27" thick rough squared rubble whose corners are marked with quoins. The roof is made of brown shingle sheathing and has two central gothic gables on the north and west sides and contains three stone chimneys, one on each side of the "T" roof. All bays of the home have modest stone head surrounds and protruding slipsills. The arched windows are adorned by protruding keystones. The large four paned windows are set close to the ground.

The design of the front facade is one of order with one rectangular window on either side of the door and an arched gothic window above the door and beneath the gable. The highlight of this facade is the front door. This large white door is framed by seven rectangular glass panels. The center of the door holds a nine panel window. Six of the surrounding windows are placed vertically alongside each side of the door, whereas the seventh window is placed horizontally alongside the top of the door. On the whole the door serves to give the front of the building a very inviting, welcoming appearance.

Of major interest to the rest of the exterior are the porches to the north and south. The open porch located on the north side and complimented by three white pillars of stone and wood is original. It has a slight bellcaste roof, very unusual around these parts and more typical of Lower Canadian architecture. The screened porch on the

south side of the building was added by the present owner, Mr. Percy Newbigging. These two porches reinforce the ordered design of the building. They also give it the effect of being squared rather than "T" shaped.

Internally this Upper Canadian house has a typically Georgian division of space, being a long rectangle, in this particular case- two intersecting rectangles- bisected by a center hall. Also typically Georgian is the main staircase directly in front of the main door with rooms on either side of it.

Characteristic of the vernacular is the kitchen which is behind the stairs and hallway. Originally there was a small circular staircase (spiral) in the small corner in the kitchen leading to what was thought to be a nursery. Both these stairs and the nursery are no longer in existence.

Interesting to note from the interior are the windows which have the effect of being dormers because the walls are extremely thick and so the windows are set well into the walls and are therefore built with almost an in-built shelf or shelves. These sort of windows are to be found all over the house. The second floor is strictly for sleeping accommodations and houses four bedrooms. The basement is located beneath the living room and parlour. There is also a small cistern located beneath the kitchen.

At the front of the house, beside the living room, is now a study, but what used to be what is known as a Minister's Parlour and behind that a closet. The Newbigging's have torn out the wall between the parlour and the walk-in closet to make a larger, more practical room which they now use as a study.

RENOVATIONS

The Newbiggings have had to make many renovations to the interior of there home to both preserve it and to make it more practical for modern day living. All in all they have done a wonderful job of maintaining as much of the original plan as possible. In fact, they have gone out of there way to preserve history. The ground limestone and sand that was originally used to hold the stones together, much as cement and putty is used today, is naturally decaying and rather than repair it or re-do it with economical cement, the Newbiggings went out of their way to find someone who could come up with close to the same colour of the filler used more than a century ago.

These renovations as well as others were all done out of the Newbigging's personal funds which demonstrates more clearly than any words could say how personal an interest and pride they take in the preservation and conservation of Ancaster's historical houses and in our valuable heritage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ancaster's Heritage: A History of Ancaster Township,
published by the Ancaster Township Historical
Society, 1970

Colonial Ancaster, 1790-1820

Macrae, Marion and Adamson, Anthony: The Ancestral Roof: Domestic
Architecture of Upper Canada
pub. by Clarke, Irwin & Co.
Toronto, 1963

Tax Assessment maps: Concession II, lot 46
Ancaster Town Hall

Terpstra, Nicholas: Research Report on the Ancaster Old Mill
LACAC, 1980

CONVERSION I
A/C 1/3



The ownership of lot 46, Concession II
and more specifically, the pie shaped
piece of land on which the miller's
house stands was as follows:

1791 - Richard Beasley & James Wilson

1794 - Jean Baptiste Rousseau

1807 - Union Mill Co.

1820 - Samuel Tisdale & Samuel Andrus

1822 - Samuel Andrus

1823 - Job Loder

1849 - James Russell

1858 - Hon. Sillyard Cameron

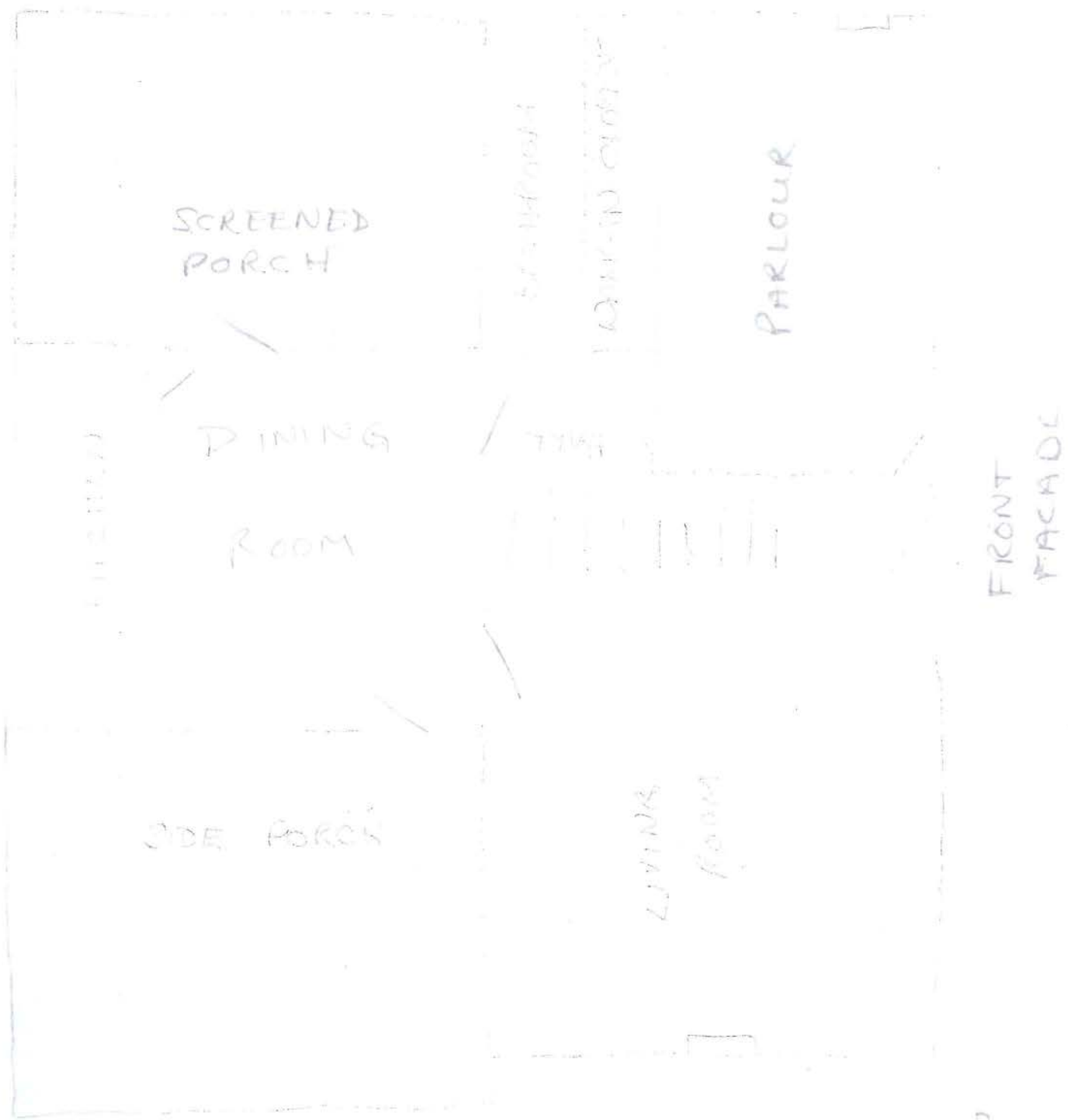
1862 - Harris & Alonzo Eggleston

1868 - Harris Eggleston

1888 - James Jackson

1958 - Percy L. Newbigging

Present - Percy L. Newbigging.



W. H. S. N. 1911

W.B.

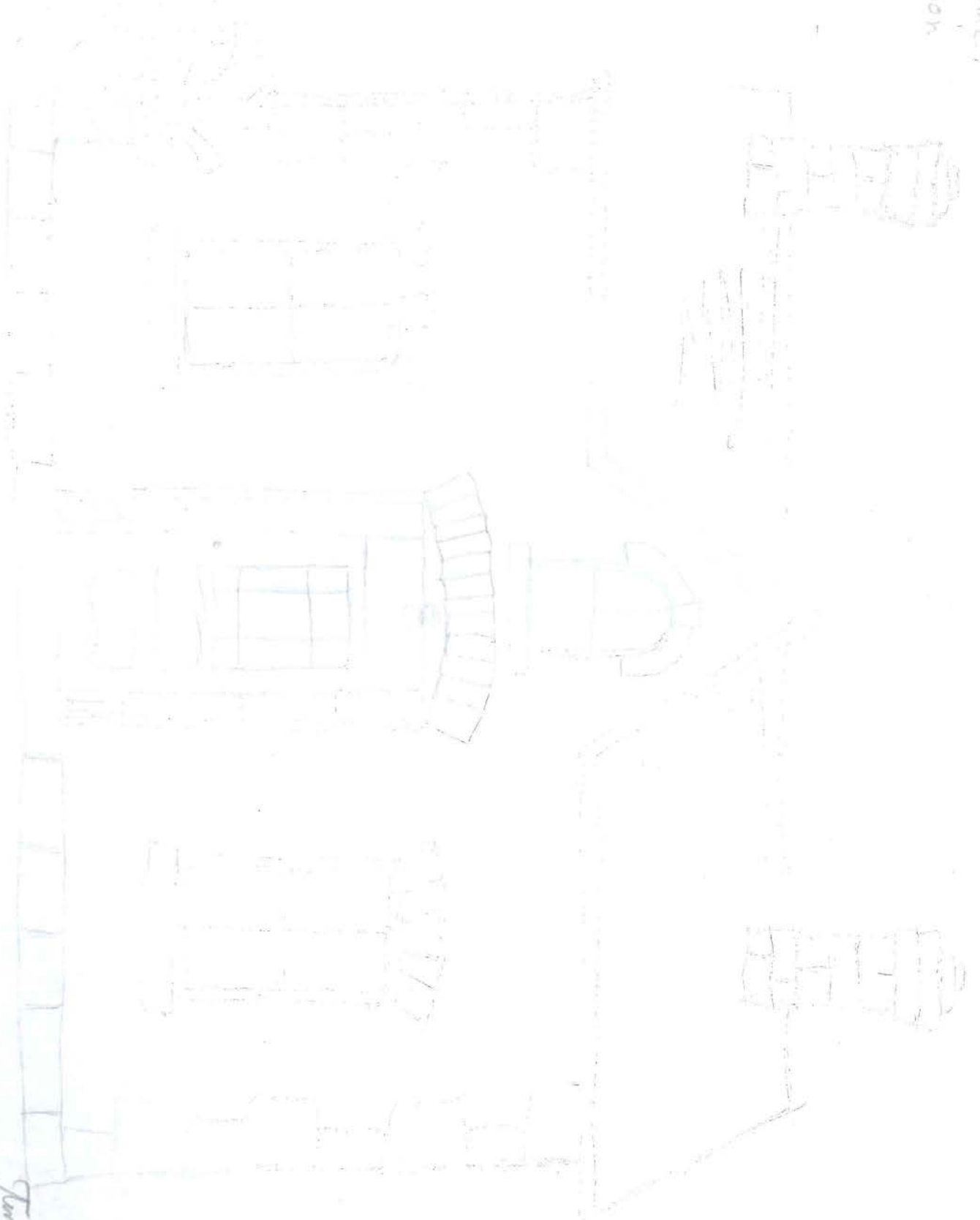
Tina Apple

W. Apple



Garage ↙

Facade
Miller's Home,
558 Wilson



James Miller