

1269 Mohawk Road, Ancaster
Constructed circa 1883



Preliminary Evaluation of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

(In accordance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22)

Design or Physical Value

1. The one-and-a-half-storey brick structure located at 1269 Mohawk Road, Ancaster, known historically as "Hillfield", was originally constructed circa 1883. A stylistically identical rear addition was added later in the nineteenth century. The property has design value as a representative example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse. Features typical of this style include its: steep gable roof with gable dormers; dichromatic brick decorative elements; arched windows in dormers; and projecting single-storey bays.
2. The property displays a high degree of craftsmanship through its: buff brick quoins; stretcher bond brickwork on front elevation; round-headed and segmentally-arched window openings with buff brick broken pediments, projecting keystones and stone lug sills; and segmentally-arched transom over front door.
3. The property does not demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

Historical / Associative Value

4. The property is associated with the theme of the early settlement of Ancaster and the locally-prominent Terryberry family. This property is located along the historic transportation corridor of Mohawk Road which was critical to the settlement of Ancaster township. Known as the Mohawk Trail until 1953, Mohawk Road follows an early Indigenous trail which ran westward along the Niagara Peninsula from the capital of Upper Canada at Niagara, through to Ancaster and onward to the Six Nations of the Grand River near present-day Brantford. This trail allowed the easy movement of people and goods through this area, well evidenced by the large number of archaeological sites nearby. The Mohawk Trail also allowed early settlers to reach farm sites in Barton township and to travel between the important settlements at Ancaster and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

William Terryberry (1779-1847), who arrived in this area in 1810, was aware of the importance of the Mohawk Trail when he built his Terryberry Tavern (1810-1897) near the present-day location of the Terryberry Public Library branch. The tavern prospered at its advantageous location, allowing William to purchase a large amount of land, his estate at the time of his death amounting to more than seven thousand pounds, a very substantial sum in 1847. Part of the lands which William owned included the subject property, which William had purchased in 1812 before selling to his daughter Sophia (1807-1887) and her husband Isaac Blain (1792-1854) in 1837. Sophia and her descendants continued to own the subject property until the early years of the twentieth century, and her son, Jacob (1835-1928), was responsible for the construction of the current brick dwelling circa 1883.

5. The property does not yield or have the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
6. The property does not demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant in the community.

Contextual Value

7. The property is important in defining the historic rural and agricultural character of Mohawk Road. The property is one of the last remaining nineteenth-century structures along Mohawk Road and is located on a visually prominent site along a major transportation corridor. While the property does not appear to influence the current character of the area due to the introduction of new contemporary construction, the contrast between this property and the surrounding modern development does act as a reminder of the historic former character of this area.

8. The property is visually and historically linked to its surroundings. A farmstead built to work the surrounding former farmland, this property is located along Mohawk Road, a historic transportation corridor which played a vital role in the settling of the surrounding area.

9. The property is not considered to be a local landmark.

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