

Statement of Significance

9853 Leslie Street – Patrick & John Kelly House

The Patrick & John Kelly House at 9853 Leslie Street is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

Description of Property

The Patrick & John Kelly House at 9853 Leslie Street is a 1 ½-storey dichromatic brick building with an L-shaped plan and cross-gabled roof located east of Leslie Street and south of Major Mackenzie Drive East, within the former hamlet of Headford in Markham Township. While the property has a Leslie Street address, it does not front onto Leslie Street, but rather onto a private access road running along its southern boundary, formerly the Headford Mill Lane connecting Leslie Street to the mill on the east side of the Rouge River.

Design and Physical Value

Dating to c. 1876, the Patrick & John Kelly House at 9853 Leslie Street has design and physical value as a representative example of the late-Victorian Gothic Revival architectural style. The building has retained its historical 1 ½-storey scale, form, massing and southern orientation towards the former Headford Mill Lane (now a private access road). The building has also retained many historical architectural details that are representative of the late-Victorian Gothic Revival style including its L-shaped plan, medium-pitched cross-gabled roof with additional central gable inset with a lancet-arched window on its south elevation, red/orange-brick cladding with decorative buff brick details, segmental-headed windows and doors, two-storey canted bay window with hipped roof on its south elevation, and south-facing principal entrance with transomed doorway.

The Patrick & John Kelly House also has design and physical value for the high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit displayed in its elaborate dichromatic patterned brickwork, attributed to significant Headford bricklayers and masons Patrick and John Kelly, who built, owned, and resided in the house from the 1870s to the early 1900s. Brick detailing at the Patrick & John Kelly House includes a projecting buff-brick building base, quoins, window and door voussoirs, decorative brick banding in different patterns, and decorative lozenges in the east and west gable-ends as well as the central gable on the south elevation.

Historical and Associative Value

The subject property has historical and associative value as the former residence of Patrick and John Kelly, who were both significant local masons in Headford during an era of prosperity in the hamlet during the late 19th century. Patrick Kelly moved to Headford in the 1850s, and the Kelly family owned and occupied the subject dwelling from the 1870s to the early 1900s.

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The Patrick and John Kelly House also has historical value because it reflects the work of celebrated Headford bricklayers and stonemasons Patrick and John Kelly. As skilled masons and builders working throughout York County from the 1850s to the late 1890s, Patrick and John Kelly were instrumental in the development of Headford during an era of prosperity in the community during the latter half of the 19th century.

In addition to the subject property, Patrick and John Kelly are attributed with the brickwork of the William Munro House at 9835 Leslie Street (c. 1875) the Headford Church at 9550 Leslie Street (1882), 9838 Leslie Street (c.1885, demolished), the Adam Henricks House at 1600 Major Mackenzie Drive East (1889), the David Hislop House at 1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East (1877, demolished), and the Richmond Hill High School at 10268 Yonge Street (1897). There are, undoubtedly, other unidentified examples of their work in the vicinity.

Contextual Value

The Patrick & John Kelly House has contextual value because its scale, form, and Gothic Revival architectural style are important in defining and maintaining the remaining historical 19th-century character of the hamlet of Headford.

The Patrick & John Kelly House has existed in its current location since c. 1876, when it was erected as the Kelly family home on the former Headford Mill Lane in the hamlet of Headford. As such, the subject dwelling retains long-standing and significant physical, visual and historical links to its surroundings, including to significant natural features such as the Rouge River and Headford Valley lands to the east, as well as built features such as the former Headford Mill Lane (now a private access road) to the south. The subject property also has long-standing and significant physical, visual, and historical links to the former milling and agricultural community of Headford.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as a representative example of late-Victorian Gothic Revival architecture are:

- The scale, form and massing of the 1 ½-storey building with an L-shaped plan;
- The medium-pitched cross-gable roof with west, south, and east gable ends, and a steeply-pitched central gable on the south elevation;
- The red/orange-brick cladding of the east, south, and west elevations, laid in common bond, with playful buff brick detailing;
- The buff brick cladding of the north (rear) elevation;
- Brick detailing including:
 - Buff brick projecting building base, quoining, decorative banding in different patterns, radiating voussoirs, and decorative lozenges in the east and west gable-ends as well as the central gable on the south elevation;
 - and

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- Vertical bands of paler orange brick accentuating all four corners of the two-storey canted bay window on the south elevation;
- The segmental-arched window openings, with wooden lugsills and radiating voussoirs;
- The lancet-arched window opening within the central gable on the south elevation, with a wooden lugsill and radiating voussoir;
- The two-storey hip-roofed canted bay window on the south elevation; and
- The main entrance located within the ell on the south elevation, featuring a transomed doorway with a segmental-arched voussoir.

Historical and Associative Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for its associations with celebrated Headford bricklayers and masons Patrick and John Kelly are:

- The building's scale, orientation, and location on the former Headford Mill Lane;
- The building's Gothic Revival architectural style and material palette; and
- The building's decorative dichromatic brickwork.

Contextual Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the contextual value of the property for defining and maintaining the 19th century character of the former hamlet of Headford and for historical, visual, and physical links to its surroundings are:

- The building's scale, siting and location on the former Headford Mill Lane;
- The building's Gothic Revival architectural style and material palette;
- The decorative dichromatic brick cladding on the west, south, and east elevations, and buff brick cladding on the north elevation.

Note that the one-storey frame addition on the house's east elevation is not considered to possess heritage attributes.