

Statement of Significance

10231 Yonge Street – Hume House

The Hume House at 10231 Yonge 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 Hume House at 10231 Yonge Street is a 1 ½-storey timber-frame structure with a rectangular building footprint and front-gable roof. The property is located on the east side of Yonge Street, south of Dunlop Street, and is located within Richmond Hill's historic village core.

Design and Physical Value

The Hume House at 10231 Yonge Street, built circa the 1840s, has design and physical value because it is an early and rare example of 19th century vernacular architecture in Richmond Hill, and because it is a very early remaining example of development along Yonge Street. The Hume House consists of a 1 ½-storey timber frame structure with a rectangular plan. Historical architectural features that contribute to the early and rare 19th-century vernacular style include its timber frame construction, the medium-sloped front gable roof with eave return, the two-bay composition of the main (west) façade, the flat-headed second storey windows on the main (west) façade, and the irregularly-placed flat-headed windows on the south façade. Historical architectural features that contribute to the early representation of development along Yonge Street include its orientation and placement flush with Yonge Street.

Historical and Associative Value

The Hume House has historical and associative value for its direct associations with the Hume family. The Hume family, including Alexander Hume, his first wife Electa, and his second wife Mary, lived in the subject building for over fifty years from the 1890s to 1945. The Hume family was remarkably involved in the village and made many contributions to early Richmond Hill life. Alexander Hume was Richmond Hill's second clerk from 1905 to 1945, ran a tailoring business for over thirty years, and held posts as librarian, notary public, and village auditor. Electa Hume was the longtime secretary of the Richmond Hill Horticultural society until 1941. As well, Alexander, Mary, and Electa heavily contributed to Richmond Hill's cultural and musical circles – Alexander was a vocalist, choir leader, and bandmaster for decades, Electa was the Methodist church organist for almost forty years, and Mary was an accomplished vocalist.

Contextual Value

The Hume House has contextual value because its scale, form, and vernacular architectural style are important in defining and maintaining the predominantly 19th and

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early 20th century main street character along Yonge Street. The property also contributes to the historic character of Richmond Hill's village core more broadly, which is typified by a mixture of 19th and early 20th century small-scale residential and commercial structures along Yonge Street, and fine-grained residential built form located on side streets east and west of Yonge Street.

The Hume House also has contextual value because it is visually and historically linked to its surroundings on the east side of Yonge Street in Richmond Hill's historic village core. The structure is visually linked to its surroundings because it has a similar scale, massing, material, and character to other 19th century structures still standing on Yonge Street. As one of the earliest structures remaining on Yonge Street in the village core, it is historically linked to the early wave of development that arose to accommodate the village's growing population in the early- to mid-19th century.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as an early and rare example of 19th century vernacular architecture in Richmond Hill are:

- The scale, form, and massing of the 1 ½ storey building with a rectangular plan;
- The medium-pitched front gable roof with return eaves;
- The timber frame construction;
- The two-bay composition on the second storey of the main (west) façade;
- The window openings, including:
 - The flat-headed windows in a two-bay composition on the main (west) façade; and
 - The mixture of flat-headed windows in an irregular configuration on the south (side) façade.

The heritage attribute that contributes to the value of the property as a rare early example of development on Yonge Street is:

- The building's scale, siting, and orientation along Yonge Street.

Historical and Associative Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for its connection to the significant Hume family are:

- The building's scale, siting, and orientation on the east side of Yonge Street; and
- The house's modest 19th-century vernacular architectural style and material palette.

Contextual Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for defining and maintaining the fine-grained 19th and early-20th century main street character of Yonge Street, and for visual and historical links to its surroundings are:

- The building's scale, siting, and orientation on the east side of Yonge Street; and
- The house's modest 19th-century vernacular architectural style and material palette.

Note: the existing storefronts at grade and the building's rear (east) addition are not considered be heritage attributes.