

Statement of Significance

35 Wright Street – Enfield: The Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean House

The Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean House at 35 Wright 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. The subject property has been found to meet Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria 1, 4, and 5.

Description of Property

The Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean House at 35 Wright Street is a 1 ½-storey brick veneer dwelling located on the north side of Wright Street, west of Yonge Street, and within the historical village of Richmond Hill.

Design and Physical Value

Dating to 1921, the Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean House at 35 Wright Street has physical value as a representative example of Craftsman residential architecture in Richmond Hill. Architectural features that contribute to the Craftsman style include the house's rectangular plan and 1 ½-storey massing, the low-pitched side-gabled roof with a large, central-gabled dormer, the brick and shingle cladding, exposed rafter tails, the full-width front porch supported by grouped square columns on brick pedestals, the six-over-one windows organized as singles, pairs, and triples, and the glazed doors.

Therefore, the subject property meets Ont. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 1: The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

Historical and Associative Value

The Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean House at 35 Wright Street has historical value for its direct associations with Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean. The couple built the house in 1921, named it "Enfield" in reference to their two last names, resided there until around 1933, and owned the property until 1941. Both Edith and Harry Endean were active members of the Richmond Hill community in the early and mid-20th century and contributed to the village's economic and social development during this time through their family business, the Endean Nurseries, along with their volunteer efforts for many different organizations and causes.

Therefore, the subject property meets Ont. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 4: The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

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The Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean House at 35 Wright Street has further historical value because it yields information about the Endean Nurseries business and the successful horticultural and floral industry that developed in Richmond Hill in the early 20th century. Richmond Hill's flower industry helped shape the village's economy and identity in the first half of the 20th century. The village incorporated the rose into its crest and motto in the early 20th century and had proclaimed itself the Rose Capital of Canada by the late 1920s.

Therefore, the subject property meets Ont. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 5: The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

Heritage attributes contributing to the value of the property as a representative example of residential Craftsman architecture in Richmond Hill are:

- The scale, form and massing of the 1 ½-storey building with a rectangular plan;
- The low-pitched side-gable roof with a large central dormer on its principal (south) slope, and exposed rafter tails at dormer and porch eaves;
- The exterior materials, comprised of a concrete foundation, orange brick cladding, and wood shingles at the second storey;
- The balanced, two-bay composition of the south (front) elevation;
- The windows, including:
 - Segmental-arched ground-floor and basement windows with brick voussoirs and rusticated concrete sills on the building's west, south, and east elevations;
 - Flat-headed second-storey windows with wood surrounds and concrete sills;
 - Period wood window units, most in a six-over-one configuration, where extant;
- The doors, including:
 - Segmental-arched ground-floor doors on the principal (south) and west elevations with brick voussoirs;
 - Period wooden door units with glazing, where extant.
- The full-width front porch, including:
 - The shed roof with exposed rafter tails at the eaves;
 - The grouped square columns with square capitals on orange brick pedestals with stone caps;
 - The cornice with peaked arches;

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- The wooden railings with square balusters and newel posts; and
- The central brick chimney located at the peak of the roof.

Historical and Associative Value

Heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for its associations with significant Richmond Hill business owners and community members Edith (Littlefield) and Harry Endean are:

- The property's scale, siting and orientation on the north side of Wright Street, west of Yonge Street; and
- The house's Craftsman 1920s architectural style and material palette.

Note: the house's one-storey frame rear (north) addition is not considered to possess heritage attributes.