

Statement of Significance

11644 Leslie Street – Horner House

The Horner House at 11644 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. The subject property has been found to meet Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

Description of Property

The Horner House at 11644 Leslie Street is a 1 ½ storey residential structure with a T-shaped footprint and Gothic Revival Cottage architectural style. The property is located on the west side of Leslie Street, north of 19th Avenue, and within the historically rural landscape on northern Leslie Street.

Design and Physical Value

The Horner House at 11644 Leslie Street, built circa the 1860s, has design and physical value as a representative example of the Gothic Revival Cottage style. The Horner House consists of a 1 ½ storey frame structure with a board and batten exterior and a rear addition. Architectural features that contribute to the Gothic Revival Cottage style include the building's 1 ½ storey massing, frame construction, medium-sloped side gable roof with a steep-pitched front gable, the symmetrical three-bay composition of the front façade, and the lancet-arched transoms over the second storey doorway.

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 Horner House at 11644 Leslie Street has historical and associative value for its associations with Jacob Horner and the Horner family. The Horners, who were of Pennsylvania German origin, were early settlers in Markham Township and were active members of their community, joining the first congregation of the Brethren in Christ in 1808. The Horner family were also longtime residents of the subject property – they lived and farmed on the lot from 1833 to 1921, ran a Cider Manufactory, and built the subject building in the 1860s. The Horner family is also associated with the Willow Grove Horner-Elliot House at 40 Frank Endean Road (circa 1840), the Horner Cemetery at 9950 Leslie Street (circa 1825), and the Jacob Horner House at 32 Love Court (previously 9940 Leslie Street, circa 1840).

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 Horner House at 11644 Leslie Street has historical and associative value because it yields information that contributes to an understanding of Pennsylvania German settlers in Markham Township, who settled York County following the American Revolutionary War and who formed early agricultural communities in the Township. The subject property was the residence and farmland of the Horners, a family of the Brethren in Christ (Tunker) faith who came to Markham Township from Pennsylvania in 1806. The Horners were early settlers in the area who built the subject dwelling circa the 1860s and farmed the subject property from 1833 to 1921.

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.

Contextual Value

The Horner House at 11644 Leslie Street has contextual value as one of a number of 19th and early 20th century farmhouses that help define and maintain the historical agricultural character of northern Leslie Street.

Therefore, the subject property meets Ont. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 7: The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The Horner House at 11644 Leslie Street has contextual value for its visual and historic links to the 19th and early 20th century rural landscape on northern Leslie Street north of Nineteenth Avenue. The Horner House was built on the subject property circa the 1860s and has been surrounded by agricultural and forested land since the time of its construction. As such, the subject property retains significant visual and historic link to its surroundings, including the large rural lots with deep setbacks to the north, south, east, and west of the property, and natural features, including the Rouge River tributary and Acavia Forest to the west.

Therefore, the subject property meets Ont. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 8: The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as a representative example of the Gothic Revival Cottage style are:

- The scale, form, and massing of the 1 ½ storey historical front (east) portion of the building, featuring a rectangular footprint;
- The medium-pitched side gable roof with a steep-pitched front gable;
- The frame construction;

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- The symmetrical and balanced composition of the main (east) façade, with three bays at grade and one bay on the second storey;
- The window and door openings, including:
 - The flat-headed window openings on the east and south facades;
 - The flat-headed principal doorway located at grade on the main (east) façade; and
 - The round-headed doorway with paired lancet-arch transom lights and paneled door with round-arched lites on the second storey of the main (east) façade.

Historical and Associative Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for its associations with Jacob Horner and the Horner family, and that yield information about the Pennsylvania German settlers in Markham Township are:

- The building's scale, siting, and orientation on the west side of Leslie Street; and
- The building's Gothic Revival Cottage architectural expression and material palette.

Contextual Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for defining and maintaining the historical agricultural character of northern Leslie Street, and for visual and historic links to its surroundings are:

- The building's scale, siting, and orientation on the west side of Leslie Street; and
- The building's Gothic Revival Cottage architectural expression and material palette.

Note: The building's rear (west) addition is not considered to possess significant heritage attributes.