

Heritage Research and Evaluation Report



297 Richmond Street – William Innes House

c. 1893

Part of Lot 47, Concession 1, Vaughan Township

Prepared by: Heritage & Urban Design, Planning & Building Services, 2024

History

Contextual History

The William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street is a residential building located in the historical village of Richmond Hill. Prior to colonization and settlement, the land was most recently inhabited by the Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Huron Wendat First Nations. Following the Toronto Purchase in 1787, the area was subdivided into townships, concessions, and lots. The subject property at 297 Richmond Street is located within former Lot 47, Concession 1, of Vaughan Township, which is associated with a period of intense early development within the settlement on Yonge Street and westward along Centre, Elizabeth, Richmond, and Mill Streets all the way to the Mill Pond owned by John Langstaff in the early 19th century.

297 Richmond Street

Land Registry records show that the first owner of Lot 47 was John E. Stooks, who was granted all 210 acres of Lot 47 by the Crown in 1808 and farmed the land.¹ In 1810 the lot was sold to D'Arcy and Henry J. Boulton, who were members of one of York's elite families. The property was then acquired by David Bridgeford in 1818. Bridgeford split the property into two halves and sold the north 105 acres of the property back to Henry J. Boulton in 1820. Bolton quickly resold the property to David Porter the same year, who sold it to Amos Wright in 1831.² Wright was an important early figure in York County and Richmond Hill. He was the first reeve of Markham Township.³ Wright, however, never resided on Lot 47 of Vaughan Township, as his home was located east of Yonge Street in Markham Township.⁴

In 1834, Wright sold an 18-acre property within the north half of Lot 47 to John Langstaff for £62.10.⁵ The chain of title for this parcel, as well as subsequent plans of subdivision for the property, indicate that this 18-acre lot was located between present-day Mill and Richmond Streets, west of Trench Street. As this parcel was located directly below the Mill Pond, John Langstaff built a sawmill here in 1847, which was fueled by the water power of the Mill Pond dam and the east branch of the Don River running through the property.⁶ John Langstaff's sawmill on Lot 47 was also the nucleus of various other 19th-century industries around the Mill Pond, including a foundry and an edge tool factory.⁷ Archival maps from the 1850s to 1870s also show the presence of a saw mill south of the Mill Pond (Figures 1-2).

After John Langstaff's death in 1865, a 10-acre parcel of land within Lot 47 containing the Langstaff sawmill was willed to John's son, Dr. James Langstaff.⁸ James Langstaff subdivided this property into several building lots along the west side of Trench Street in 1875 through Plan 410. Plan 481 of the Village of Richmond Hill (also known as the 'Gibson Plan') was later created in 1879, which shows further subdivision of the Langstaff sawmill property west of Trench Street. The subject property at 297 Richmond Street is located within Village Lot 8 of Plan 481 (Figure 3).

On June 4, 1890, Leslie, William and John Innes bought a portion of Village Lot 8 from the executors of James Langstaff's estate for \$1,400.⁹ However, archival evidence indicates that at the time of this sale the Innes' has already been operating a mill on this

¹ *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Concession 1, Lot 47, Vaughan Township (Richmond Hill).

² *Ibid.*

³ Robert M. Stamp. *Early Days in Richmond Hill: A History of the Community to 1930* (Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991), 158.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 159.

⁵ *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Concession 1, Lot 47, Vaughan Township (Richmond Hill).

⁶ George Elmore Reaman, *A History of Vaughan Township: Two Centuries of Life in the Township* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1971), 55.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Concession 1, Lot 47, Vaughan Township (Richmond Hill).

⁹ *Ibid.*

property for several years. The deed of sale from 1890 references an earlier agreement dated May 24, 1886 between Dr. James Langstaff, Samuel Mager, Leslie Innes, and William Innes to allow “erections, buildings and machinery” to be installed on a portion of Village Lot 8.¹⁰ Archival advertisements and notices published in *The Liberal* also indicate that L. Innes & Sons acquired a sash and door factory and saw mill on Richmond Street in 1886 (Figure 4),¹¹ which they took over from past proprietor Samuel Mager.¹²

Soon after the Innes’ began operating the former Langstaff mills on Richmond Street, William Innes moved to Richmond Hill in 1887,¹³ where he occupied a house on the L. Innes & Sons mill property on Village Lot 8. While the 1881 census records William Innes as residing with his parents and brothers in Whitchurch Township, by the time of the 1891 census he is recorded as living in a two-storey, six-room wooden house in the Village of Richmond Hill with his wife Mary and son Henry (also known as John Harry or J. Harry).¹⁴ The 1891 *List of Voters for the Village of Richmond Hill* provides further detail by placing William Innes on ‘Lot 8 on 47’ located on the north side of Richmond Street.¹⁵ In 1892, Plan 1131 was registered for the lands containing the Innes mill property, with the subject property at 297 Richmond Street located on Lot 5 of Plan 1131¹⁶ (Figure 5).

According to local tradition, the original rear (north) portion of the William Innes house was built in the 1880s, and was later significantly expanded and renovated by Leslie Innes for his son William around 1893 through the addition of a southern wing containing a parlour on the first floor and a bedroom above.¹⁷ The house’s circa 1893 construction date is also corroborated by a newspaper article in *The Liberal* about the devastating fire at the Innes mill in April of 1894, which states that the “new house” on the mill property was saved “only by the active exertions of those who attended the fire.”¹⁸ The significant expansion or reconstruction of the subject dwelling in the 1890s is also supported by the fact that the 1891 census records William Innes living in a two-storey, six-room wooden house, while by the time of the 1901 census, William’s house is described as an eight-room wooden house. Historical photographs of the William Innes House from the early 20th century (Figures 6-7) reveal the house’s circa 1893 design, which features ornate wooden details and finishes from the Innes mill directly to the west. The interior of the house was also furnished with wooden finishes from the Innes Mill, including an elaborate cherrywood fireplace surround and window cornice in the parlour (Figures 8-9).

¹⁰ *Instrument No. 604*, Richmond Hill Book B, Ontario Land Registry Deeds, York (South). Accessed via Family Search.

¹¹ “Richmond Hill Planing Mills!” *Liberal*. December 2, 1886.

¹² “Personals,” *Liberal*. November 18, 1886.

¹³ “Late William Innes,” *Liberal*. April 14, 1927.

¹⁴ *Census of Canada*, 1891.

¹⁵ *List of Voters for the Village of Richmond Hill*, 1891.

¹⁶ *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Richmond Hill, Plan 1131.

¹⁷ *Heritage Building Summary – 297 Richmond Street*, date unknown, Richmond Hill LACAC Files, Local History and Genealogy Collection, Richmond Hill Public Library, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada; *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York* (Toronto: J.H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

¹⁸ “Card of thanks,” *Liberal*. April 5, 1894.

The William Innes House is also depicted in a 1923 Fire Insurance Plan of Richmond Hill (Figure 10), which shows the house's footprint, wooden construction, and location immediately east of the Innes Mill on Richmond Street. Census and newspaper records reveal that William Innes and his wife Mary lived at the subject dwelling until William Innes' death in 1927. Following William's death the subject property was sold by the executors of William Innes' estate to Evelyn S. and Yerxa B. Tracy for \$2,700 in 1929.¹⁹ As Yerxa Byron Tracy was the local CN rail agent for Richmond Hill from 1911 to 1953 and is known to have lived in the rail station then located on Centre Street East,²⁰ it is unlikely that the Tracy family ever lived on the subject property. It is likely that the Tracy family rented out the subject dwelling to Robert Marsh and his family beginning in the late 1920s, since the Marshes are recorded as being tenants of a detached eight-room wooden house on Richmond Street in the 1931 census, and since an oral history of the subject property records that the Marshes moved into the house at 297 Richmond Street around 1928.²¹ The Tracy family then sold the property to Robert Marsh in 1946 for \$4,600.²² Robert Marsh then sold the subject property to K. Thomas in 1997.²³

William Innes and The L. Innes & Sons Firm

William Innes, the eldest son of Leslie and Mary A. (Ritchie) Innes, was born in Thornhill around 1858.²⁴ William's father, Leslie, was a carpenter and builder born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland around 1827, who immigrated to Canada in 1854.²⁵ After initially working on the construction of the Northern Railway line from Toronto to Lake Simcoe's Cook's Bay,²⁶ Leslie Innes married Mary A. Ritchie of Thornhill in 1857.²⁷ The Innes' first settled in Thornhill after their marriage,²⁸ and later moved to Gormley in Whitchurch Township sometime between 1861 and 1871.²⁹ Leslie Innes moved to Richmond Hill around 1885,³⁰ where he founded the L. Innes & Sons firm with his eldest and youngest sons William and John (Figure 11), and took over operations of the Langstaff planing and saw mill at the west end of Richmond Street in 1886.³¹ An article in *The Liberal* from July of 1887 describes the L. Innes & Sons mill and factory in great

¹⁹ *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Concession 1, Lot 47, Vaughan Township (Richmond Hill).

²⁰ Robert M. Stamp. *Early Days in Richmond Hill: A History of the Community to 1930* (Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991), 243.

²¹ *Census of Canada*, 1931; *Heritage Building Summary – 297 Richmond Street*, date unknown, Richmond Hill LACAC Files, Local History and Genealogy Collection, Richmond Hill Public Library, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada.

²² *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Richmond Hill, Plan 1131.

²³ *297 Richmond Street*, date unknown, City File No. D12-07379, City of Richmond Hill Heritage Property (D12) Files, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada.

²⁴ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907) 558.

²⁵ "Golden Wedding," *Liberal*. May 16, 1907.

²⁶ "Died in his 92nd Year," *Liberal*. July 24, 1919.

²⁷ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Census of Canada*, 1861, 1871, 1881.

³⁰ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

³¹ "Richmond Hill Planing Mills!" *Liberal*. December 2, 1886.

detail. At the time of the article, the mill was producing doors, windows, blinds, mouldings of all kinds, and furnishing for inside and outside the house, which were being used in building projects in the village and surrounding neighbourhoods as well as the City of Toronto.³² The mill and factory also contained a number of the “simplest and handiest” machines “ever seen used in a factory of the kind” including six circular saws, a shaper, a moulding machine, a tenant machine, several mortise machines, turning lathes, and blind wire machines, all powered by a 35 horsepower engine.³³

In April of 1894, tragedy struck the Innes mill when “one of the most destructive fires” in Richmond Hill broke out around midnight, completely destroying the mill and its contents.³⁴ However, William Innes’ new house immediately east of the mill (the subject dwelling at 297 Richmond Street), as well as much lumber was saved from the flames only through the active efforts of the village fire brigade.³⁵ The damage was estimated at \$8,000 and there was no insurance on the property.³⁶ Due to the economic importance of the Innes mill to Richmond Hill at the time, a public meeting was held the following day to discuss ways that the village could help the firm rebuild their factory and it was decided that the community would be canvassed to collect funds.³⁷

The Innes factory was rebuilt, and archival newspaper articles suggest that it was back in operation by October 1894.³⁸ In 1897, the firm bought a flour mill which they placed at the “north side of their present factory” on Richmond Street.³⁹ Advertisements for the firm and their services and products can be seen throughout various issues of *The Liberal* from 1886 to the 1920s.⁴⁰ An advertisement from the 1902 *Metropolitan Railway Guide Book and Time Table* also provides a description of the L. Innes & Sons business offerings at the time, stating:

*“We manufacture all kinds of exterior and interior finish for houses, and keep in stock a large assortment of all kinds of Lumber: Shingles, Floorings, Sheeting, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Mouldings, etc. We manufacture mantles and work boards for hotels, and all kinds of church finish.”*⁴¹

The Innes Mills on Richmond Street are also depicted in a number of archival photographs from the early 20th century (Figure 12). In addition to running the mills at the west end of Richmond Street, the Innes’ were also highly skilled builders who constructed numerous buildings in and around Richmond Hill and York in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Leslie Innes & Sons are credited with building the Leslie Innes House at 124 Richmond Street (1888); the William Proctor Double House at 37 and 39 Centre Street West (1891); the Charles Mason Double House at 12 and 14 Church

³² “L. Innes & Sons,” *Liberal*. July 28, 1887.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ “The Innes Mill Burned,” *Liberal*. April 5, 1894.

³⁵ “Card of Thanks,” *Liberal*. April 5, 1894.

³⁶ “The Innes Mill Burned,” *Liberal*. April 5, 1894.

³⁷ “Public Meeting,” *Liberal*. April 5, 1894.

³⁸ “Next!” *Liberal*. October 4, 1894.

³⁹ “Another Industry,” *Liberal*. December 2, 1897.

⁴⁰ “Shingles!” *Liberal*. April 13, 1899.

⁴¹ *The Metropolitan Railway: Guide Book and Time Table* (Toronto: Metropolitan Railway Company, 1902).

Street South (1891); the Richmond Hill High School at 10268 Yonge Street (1897); the Temperanceville United Church at 734 King Road (1897), the John L. Innes House at 131 Richmond Street (1903); and the M. L. McConaghy Public School at 10100 Yonge Street (1914).

William Innes was educated in the schools of York County, and entered his family's carpentry and building business as a boy, a trade which he continued throughout his life.⁴² William married Mary Clift of Whitchurch Township in 1882, and the couple's only son, John Harry, was born in 1883.⁴³ J. Harry later joined the family business as a bookkeeper after graduating from the Toronto Business College.⁴⁴ After moving his family from Whitchurch to Richmond Hill in 1887,⁴⁵ William Innes erected a fine home directly beside the L. Innes & Sons factory and mill on Richmond Street around 1893.⁴⁶ Following Leslie Innes' retirement, William took over as head of the family business.⁴⁷

William Innes was an active business owner, major employer, and significant community member in Richmond Hill. He served as a member of the village council from 1897 to 1905,⁴⁸ and was a charter member of the Sons of Scotland in Richmond Hill, an organization in which he was active until his death.⁴⁹ He was also a respected leader in the Presbyterian Church, where he was elected an elder in 1895⁵⁰ and acted as superintendent of the Sabbath school for many years.⁵¹ William is one of a select few Richmond Hill residents to be featured in the *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York, Ontario*, published in 1907, which describes him as "one of the highly esteemed residents of Richmond Hill"⁵² as well as being the "senior member of the well-known firm of L. Innes & sons."⁵³ William Innes died of heart failure on April 10, 1927,⁵⁴ after which L. Innes & Sons appears to have ceased operations. While the executors of William's estate sold the mill property shortly after his death,⁵⁵ it was nevertheless one of the last mills in operation on the east branch of the Don River.⁵⁶

Architecture

⁴² *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ "Obituary Late William Innes," *Liberal*. April 14, 1927.

⁴⁶ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Robert M. Stamp. *Early Days in Richmond Hill: A History of the Community to 1930* (Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991), 372.

⁴⁹ "Obituary Late William Innes," *Liberal*. April 14, 1927.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 558.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ York County Death Records, 1927. Accessed via FamilySearch.

⁵⁵ "For Sale," *Liberal*. September 22, 1927.

⁵⁶ George Elmore Reaman, *A History of Vaughan Township: Two Centuries of Life in the Township* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1971), 199.

Dating to circa 1893, the William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street is a representative example of the late-Victorian vernacular residential architectural style and building typology in Richmond Hill. The late-Victorian vernacular style, which was popularly applied to residential buildings in Southern Ontario from roughly 1875 to 1900, is characterized by an eclectic mixture of Gothic Revival and Picturesque elements. While the building has seen a number of alterations over time, such as the removal of its ornate wooden verandah and gabled second-storey balcony, the subject building has retained many elements representative of late-Victorian vernacular residential architecture, including its asymmetrical footprint, 2-storey massing, medium-pitched cross-gabled roof, wooden clapboard cladding, its mixture of flat-headed and round-arched window and door openings, and decorative wood detailing including paneled bargeboards and paneled and glazed door units.

The William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street is a 2-storey frame building with an asymmetrical plan comprised of a central rectangular component with projecting wings to the east and west. The house features a medium-pitched cross-gabled roof with south, north, east, and west gable ends; the south (front), east and west (side) gables are also decorated with paneled wood bargeboards with bullseye blocks and dentils.

The building is of frame construction and features wood clapboard siding and corner boards. While the majority of the house's window and door openings are flat-headed, there are two round-arched second-storey windows located on the east elevation of the east wing. The house's west wing also features a two-storey projecting bay on its west elevation. This bay features a large first-storey window with a leaded glass transom and dentilated wood trim, paired second-storey windows, and a half-round attic window opening, which is currently boarded up. The house's main entrance is located on the south elevation and features a paneled and glazed wooden door unit. All of the house's windows and doors feature wood surrounds.

A one-storey entrance vestibule with a hipped roof is located within the ell of the house's front (south) elevation, which archival photographs reveal was originally connected to a large wraparound verandah. This vestibule features four-paned windows, as well as a paneled and glazed wooden door unit on its south elevation.

The house also has a one-storey gable-roofed rear (north) addition with a cement block foundation, which is not original.

Context

The William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street is located on the north side of Richmond Street, west of Trench Street, and close to the western terminus of Richmond Street. As Richmond Street, west of Trench Street, featured largely industrial and agricultural uses until the area was subdivided and developed beginning in the 1950s, the predominant built form character of the immediate vicinity is that of a postwar residential suburb, with some remnant residential built form from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Despite the predominate postwar character of the surrounding neighbourhood, the subject property remains linked to many natural landscape features that were once integral to the Mill Pond area's role as an industrial and manufacturing centre, including the east branch of the Don River, located north and west of the subject property, and the Mill Pond and Mill Pond Park located north of the subject property.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 569/22 – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The following evaluation applies Ontario Regulation 9/06, the prescribed provincial Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (the "Act"). There are a total of nine criteria under O. Reg. 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

Criteria applicable to the property are outlined below, along with explanatory text.

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.

Dating to circa 1893, the William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street has physical value as a representative example of the late-Victorian vernacular residential architectural style and building typology in Richmond Hill. The late-Victorian vernacular style, which was popularly applied to residential buildings in Southern Ontario from roughly 1875 to 1900, is characterized by an eclectic mixture of Gothic Revival and Picturesque elements. Features representative of this style and typology include the house's asymmetrical plan and cross-gabled roof with south, east, north, and west gable ends inset with paneled bargeboard trim, the flat-headed and round-arched window openings with wood surrounds and lugsills, the flat headed doors with paneled and glazed wooden door units, the projecting bay on the west elevation featuring a large first-storey window with leaded glass transom, and the hip-roofed entry vestibule in the ell of the front (south) elevation.

2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

N/A

3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

N/A

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.

The William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street has historical value for its direct associations with significant business owner and community member William Innes, as well as his family business the *L. Innes & Sons* firm. The subject property was once located on the same property as the *L. Innes & Sons* mill and factory complex which operated on a large industrial site at the western terminus of Richmond Street from around 1886 to 1927, manufacturing wood products and finishes used in countless building projects in York County and neighbouring Toronto. *L. Innes & Sons* were also prolific builders in Richmond Hill and York County from the 1880s to 1910s.

William Innes moved into an earlier dwelling on the subject property with his family around 1887, and then significantly renovated and expanded the house into its current form around 1893 using a variety of wooden products and finishes from the *L. Innes & Sons* mill. William and his family lived in the subject property for four decades, until William's death in 1927. Apart from being a significant business owner and employer in Richmond Hill from the 1880s to the 1920s, William Innes was also an active member of the local community. He served as a member of Village Council from 1897 to 1905, was a charter member of the Sons of Scotland in Richmond Hill, and was a respected leader in the local Presbyterian Church, where he was elected an elder in 1895 and acted as superintendent of the Sabbath school for many years. William is one of a select few Richmond Hill residents to be featured in the *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York, Ontario*, published in 1907.

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.

N/A

6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

The William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street has historical value because it demonstrates the work of local builders and mill owners *L. Innes & Sons*. The Innes family owned and operated a mill and factory on Richmond Street, producing a variety of wood products and finishes from the 1880s to the 1920s, and were also prolific builders in Richmond Hill from the 1880s to the 1910s. The William Innes House, which was constructed circa 1893, reflects not only the work of *L. Innes & Sons* as builders,

but also displays the types of wood finishes produced by the Innes mill before the original mill was destroyed by fire in 1894.

While wooden products from the Innes mill can be seen in countless buildings throughout York County, some notable buildings constructed by the firm in Richmond Hill include the Leslie Innes House at 124 Richmond Street (1888); the William Proctor Double House at 37 and 39 Centre Street West (1891); the Charles Mason Double House at 12 and 14 Church Street South (1891); the Richmond Hill High School at 10268 Yonge Street (1897); the Temperanceville United Church at 734 King Road (1897), the John L. Innes House at 131 Richmond Street (1903); and the M. L. McConaghy Public School at 10100 Yonge Street (1914).

7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

N/A

8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street has contextual value for being functionally and historically linked to its surroundings as part of the former *L. Innes & Sons* mill property on the north side of Richmond Street, west of Trench Street. The Innes mill and factory site, which was in operation until around 1927, was once the nucleus of an industrial area that grew around the Mill Pond in the 19th century and was one of the last mills operating on the east branch of the Don River.

9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

N/A

Maps and Photographs

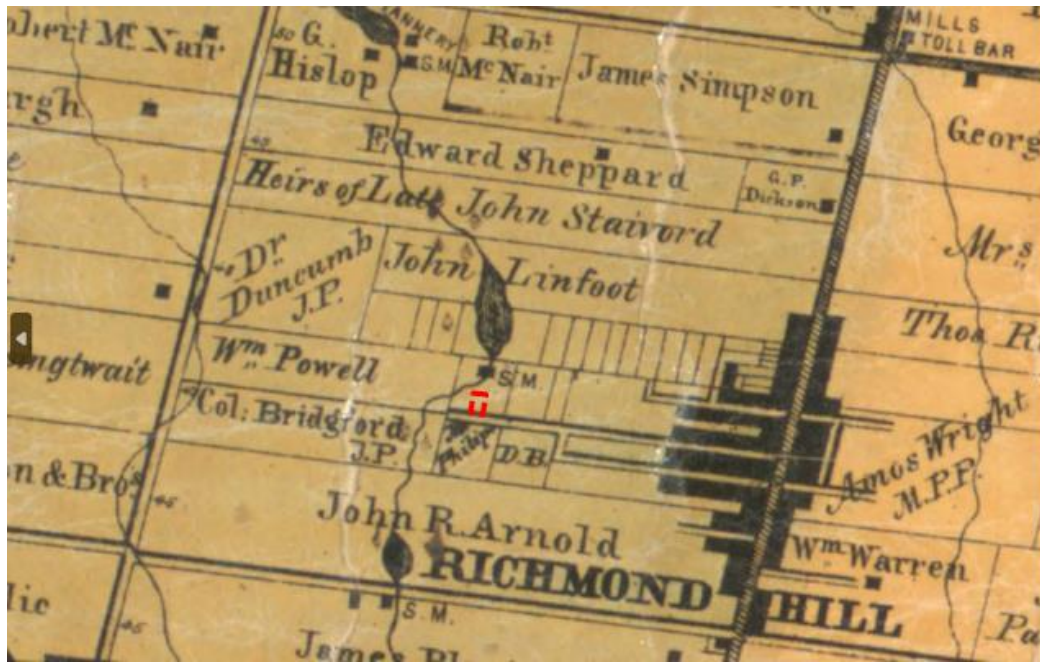


Figure 1 Detail of the 1860 *Tremaine Map of York County*, showing the approximate location of the subject property at 297 Richmond Street (in red). Note the presence of a sawmill (S.M.) south of Mill Pond at the time (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).



Figure 2 Detail of the 1878 *Miles & Co. Map of Richmond Hill* showing the approximate location of the subject property at 297 Richmond Street (in red). (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).



Figure 3 Detail of the 1879 Gibson Plan (Plan 481) showing the approximate location of the subject property at 297 Richmond Street (in red), located within Village Lot 8 of Plan 481. At the time, Village Lot 8 contained the Langstaff mills, powered by the Mill Pond. (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).

RICHMOND HILL

PLANING MILLS !

L. INNES & SONS,

Having bought the above-named mill
and put everything in

FIRST-CLASS ORDER,

Are now prepared to take contracts for
all kinds of Buildings.

DOORS, SASH, BLINDS, &C.,

Kept on hand, or made to order on
the shortest notice. A stock of

PLANED LUMBER,

MOULDINGS, &C.,

Always on hand. There is also a

FIRST-CLASS SAW-MILL

In connection with the factory, where
custom sawing will be done. All work
guaranteed and prices moderate.

The above factory is situated on

RICHMOND ST., RICHMOND HILL

Nov. 25th, 1886-3m.

Figure 4 1886 advertisement from *The Liberal*, stating that L. Innes & Sons have bought the Langstaff mill property on Richmond Street (Source: *The Liberal*, December 2, 1886).

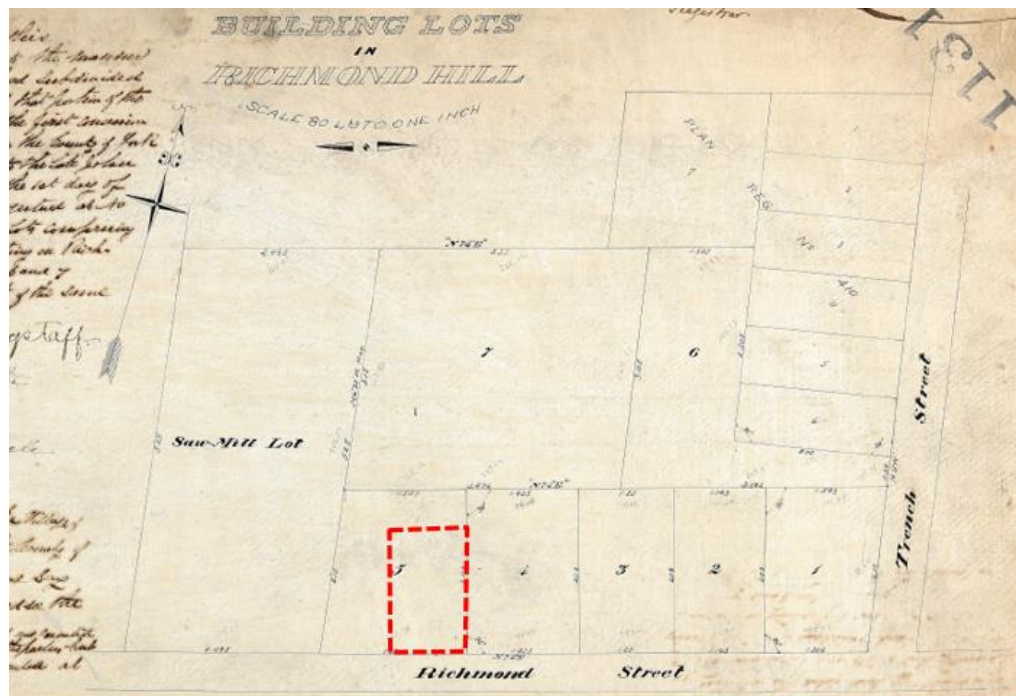


Figure 5 1892 Plan 1131, showing the approximate location of the subject property at 297 Richmond Street (in red), located within Lot 5 on the north side of Richmond Street. Note the L. Innes & Sons saw mill lot located directly to the west. (Source: Ontario Land Registry Office).



Figure 6 Circa 1920s photograph of the William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street. Note the house's ornate wooden detailing at the time, manufactured at the neighbouring L. Innes & Sons mill and factory. Part of the Innes mill complex can be seen on the far left of the image. (Source: City of Richmond Hill Heritage Property (D12) Files).



Figure 7 Circa 1920s photograph of the William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street. Note the house's ornate wooden detailing at the time, manufactured at the neighbouring L. Innes & Sons mill and factory. (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).

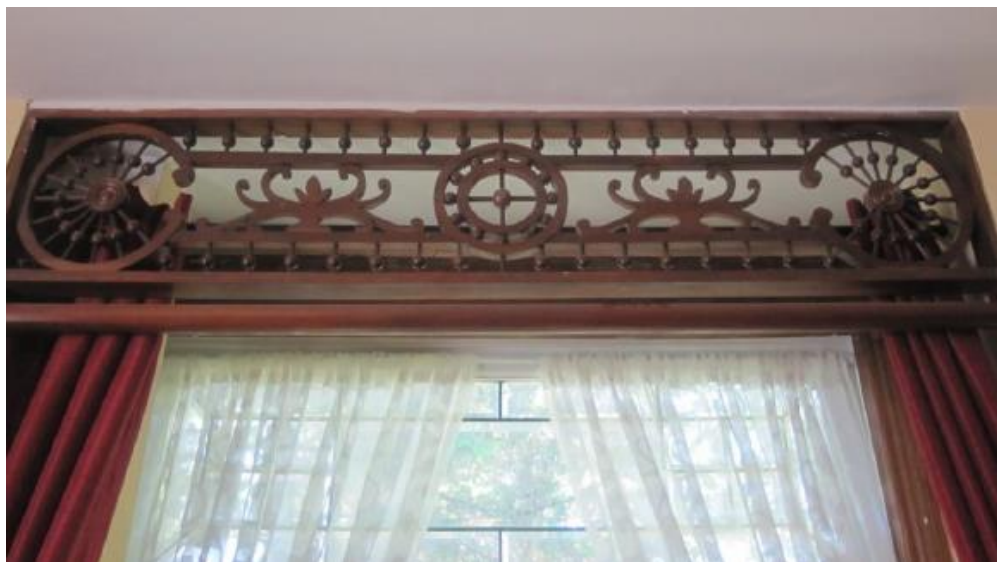


Figure 8 2015 photograph showing the ornate cherrywood window cornice in the interior of the William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street. (Source: MHSBC, 2015).



Figure 9 2015 photograph showing the ornate cherrywood fireplace surround in the interior of the William Innes House at 297 Richmond Street. (Source: MHSBC, 2015).

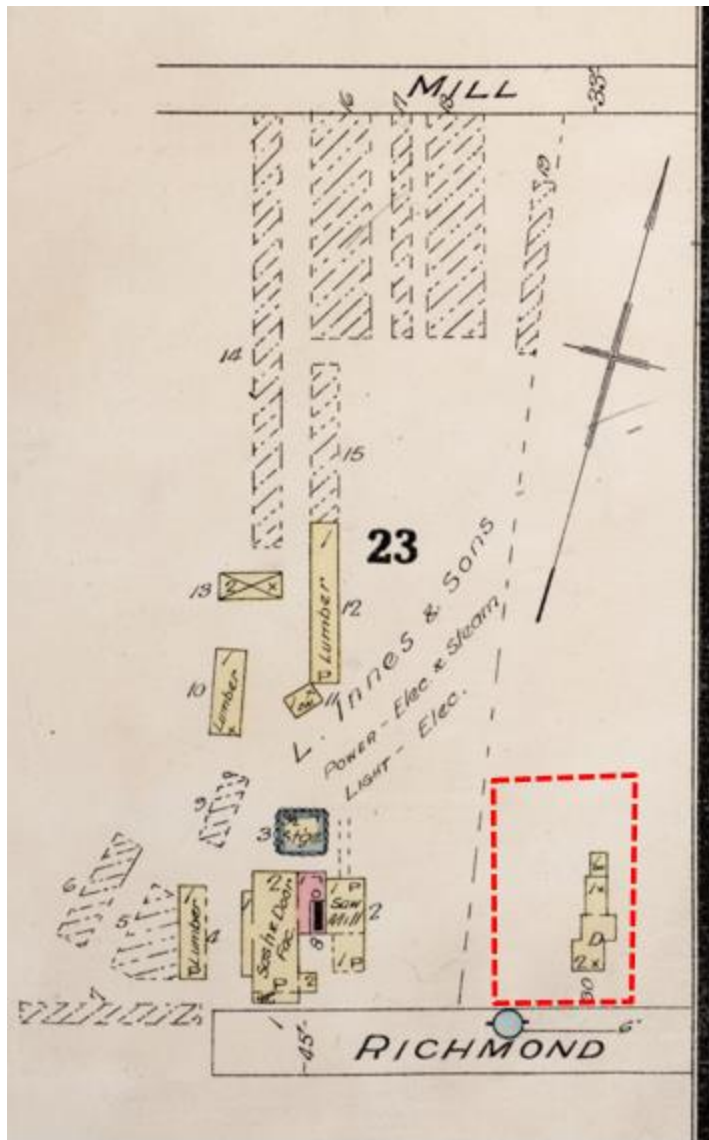


Figure 10 Detail of the 1923 *Underwriter's Survey Bureau Limited Fire Insurance Plan of Richmond Hill*, showing the approximate location of the subject property at 297 Richmond Street (in red). Note that the subject property is located immediately east of the L. Innes & Sons mill and factory. (Source: University of Toronto Library).



Figure 11 1907 photograph of Leslie and Mary Innes and their three sons on the porch of Leslie Innes' home at 124 Richmond Street. (Left to right) Top: Alexander, John L. and William Innes. Bottom: Leslie and Mary Innes (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).



Figure 12 1904 postcard showing employees in front of the L. Innes & Sons mill and factory at the west end of Richmond Street, south of the Mill Pond (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).



Figure 13 Current photograph looking northwest, showing the principal (south) and side (east) elevations of 297 Richmond Street. Note the building's 2-storey massing, medium-pitched cross-gable roof with paneled wood bargeboard trim, wood clapboard siding, and hip-roofed entrance vestibule in the building's ell (Source: HUD, 2024)



Figure 14 Current photograph looking north, showing the principal (south) elevation of 297 Richmond Street. Note the building's 2-storey massing, medium-pitched cross-gable roof with paneled wood bargeboard trim, wood clapboard siding, 1-over-1 sash windows and paneled and glazed wood front door (Source: HUD, 2024)



Figure 15 Current photograph looking northwest, showing the side(east) elevation of 297 Richmond Street. Note the round-arched second storey windows and paneled wood bargeboard trim (Source: HUD, 2024).



Figure 16 2016 photograph showing 297 Richmond Street's side (west) elevation. Note the paneled wood bargeboard trim, and full-height projecting bay with a large first-storey window with leaded-glass transom, paired second-storey windows, and a half-round attic window (boarded up) (Source: MHBC, 2016).

Sources

Archival Sources

"Another Industry." *Liberal*, December 2, 1897.

"Card of Thanks." *Liberal*, April 5, 1894.

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