

HYDE FAMILY HOME



ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Heritage Halton Hills Designation Report 2019

By John Mark Rowe

Location

The Hyde Family Home is located at 18 Queen Street, Georgetown, Ontario, in the Town of Halton Hills, PIN#25040-0079. The property is registered as part of Lot 8 Plan 37, NW of Albert Street; part Lot 8 Plan 37, SE of Queen Street, as in 800956, T/W 800956, S/T 800956; Halton Hills.

Historical Background

The residence at 18 Queen Street, Georgetown sits on Esquesing Concession 9, Lot 18 which was purchased by George Kennedy. George Kennedy, a veteran of the War of 1812 was granted 100 acres at Lot 20, Concession 8, Esquesing by the Crown for his services. Not being inclined to farming, he sold that lot and purchased the 200 acres of Lot 18, Concession 9 from John Moore, in 1823. This land had been designated as a mill seat by the surveyor, Charles Kennedy (his brother), and so he dammed Silver Creek and built a mill. The place struggled (called Hungry Hollow) until 1827 when the Toronto to Guelph Road (Guelph Street) was opened through the centre of his property. Business picked up enabling Kennedy sell his mill and dam to the Barber brothers in 1837, who named the place Georgetown, in his honour.

The selection of Georgetown as a station on the proposed Toronto to Guelph railway route in 1852 increased Kennedy's land values. He laid



out a plan of subdivision in 1854. Several lots, including Lots 8 and 9 of George Kennedy's survey were sold to George C. Kennedy who built the fine brick residence at 20 Queen Street. Kennedy was the owner of the village foundry and was living in the brick one-storey house in the 1861 census with his wife Eliza and five children.

Kennedy sold his property to Thomas and Barbara Crawford in 1870. A large portion of the Crawford land was sold in 1889 to Edward McCannah, the station agent for the Grand Trunk Railway at Georgetown. He built the magnificent mansion named "Grey Vernon" at the centre of the lot, numbered 5 Queen Street (today having the address of 5 Albert Street). Mrs. Crawford died on 25 April 1898 in her 83rd year. The executors of Barbara Crawford sold her remaining land to Grand Trunk Railway Station Agent Edward McCannah in 1898. He proceeded to build 22, 24 and 26 Queen Street. In 1912, McCannah severed part of Lot 8 off to create a lot on which to build 18 Queen Street.



In October 1912, McCannah took out a mortgage on Lot 8 to the value of \$2000. The house construction would have started in the Spring of 1913. This became another rental property for McCannah, as were his houses at 20, 22, 24 and 26 Queen Street.

Edward McCannah retired from the Grand Trunk Railway in 1907 after 37 years in the business and became involved in local politics. His wife Claire (Bailey) McCannah died at *Grey Vernon* in 1925 at 67 years of age. He lived alone in his mansion until his death in 1932 at 80 years of age.

The house at 18 Queen Street was acquired by William John and Hazel (Huntley) Hyde on 2 July 1937 for \$1500 from the McCannah Estate.



They would make this house the family home for the next 48 years. William Hyde was a member of the Georgetown Fire Department. He was appointed Fire Chief from January 1952 until the end of 1956. He was joined on the department by his son William Reginald Hyde and Robert Hyde. Robert would later become Deputy Fire Chief. William and Hazel Hyde raised five children here at 18 Queen Street. After a life-time together Hazel Hyde died in April 1982, followed by her husband William in March 1983. The house was sold that same year.

William J. Hyde in 1967 EHS04515



This postcard shows Queen Street as an overgrown dirt lane with two gentlemen posing for the camera on the sidewalk. Shown (left to right) are the corner of #26, #24, #22 and the white quoins of the red brick house at #20 Queen Street.

EHS13481

Site Analysis

This house is one of the several houses built by Edward McCannah in the early years of the 20th century. It is elevated on a hill above Queen Street, contributing to the character of the street. It is a large vernacular Edwardian 2½ storey house set between two Gothic style Victorian red-brick houses. The centre of the house is dominated by a concrete block chimney in an Arts and Crafts style. This chimney is clad in rock-faced concrete blocks popular in the early twentieth century.



The front of the house appears box-like and devoid of ornamentation or distinctive features, save the chimney. However, it was not built like this. A porch open to two sides was typical of the Edwardian era. The protrusion above the current front door and front windows suggest a structural overhang – a porch roof. A fine square wooden upright supports the corner of the porch.

This typical Edwardian feature can be seen in three neighbouring houses built by McCannah. The alcove-type porch was built into the stone twins at 22 and 24 Queen Street. One has since been closed in. It is also a feature of the log house at 26 Queen Street.

Residents of 22 Queen Street enjoy the cool alcove porch in 2001. HHH photo





The red arrow (left) highlights the protrusion that was the porch roof overhang. Photo by Anne Fisher



RIGHT: The corner post of the alcove porch now has windows on either side. Photo by J.M. Rowe

The exterior Edwardian features remaining include balanced windows on the Queen Street with a pitched roof and gable end, into which two sliding windows have been inserted at a later time. The eaves are wide around the roof.

Travelling to the rear of the house, the rear roof is hipped with a gable dormer window. The current $\frac{3}{4}$ -length porch replaced the original full porch which may have had solid supports like the front porch. The 1922 Fire Insurance map shows the full-length porch on the rectangular



frame house. The colours indicate #16 of solid brick, #18 and 26 of wood, #20 is brick-clad and blue indicates stone (#22 & 24).



This unusual configuration at the rear is similar to the front of many Edwardian houses but consider there is no driveway from Queen Street. Carriage or motor car access was from Albert Street, as it is today.

Entering the house at 18 Queen Street confirms its Edwardian heritage. The wooden grand staircase is anchored by a square newel post and simple staircase trim emphasize the attributes valued at the time. The gentle curve of the baseboard up the stairs highlights the carpentry skills of the craftsman who built the house.

The rounded feature of the window and door frames speak of the fine workmanship. The doors are solid wood panel doors in a horizontal style typical of the Edwardian era. There are also two fireplaces using the large chimney – one in the front room and one upstairs in the master bedroom.

However, there are areas where the trim and stair railings become simple. There may have been budget restraints



introduced during the building process by McCannah. Other factors that may suggest this change in fortune are the use of concrete block rather than stone and the lack of

ornamental stained glass. Another factor may be the building date, particularly if interior work was taking place after the declaration of war on 4 August 1914.

Although the Queen Street façade of the Hyde Family Home at 18 Queen Street appears very simple, a careful analysis of the home in conjunction with expected Edwardian features and the porches of the neighbouring houses built by McCannah suggests a building unique to Queen Street with Arts and Crafts influence set in an Edwardian vernacular style.



View into the house from the vestibule (originally the porch) through the original door opening.

SCHEDULE OF DETERMINING CRITERIA

Description of Property

The house at 18 Queen Street, Georgetown has design and architectural value as it includes a good example of a vernacular house displaying the influence of Edwardian Classicism style of architecture. Contextual value is evident by the positioning of the house. It is set back and elevated from Queen Street and has shared attributes with three neighbouring houses built by the same owner.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The house at Part Lot 8 Plan 37 in Georgetown was built about 1913. It is a good representative example of a late nineteenth century vernacular house displaying the influence of the Edwardian Classicism style of architecture.

Edwardian classicism was prevalent in Ontario at the beginning of the twentieth century and its simple balanced designs represent a reaction to the decorative excess of the late Victorian era. Edwardian Classical houses in Ontario are typically constructed of smooth red brick. They are box-like in their massing and are a full two storeys in height with hipped roofs above. They are largely devoid of exterior ornament except for generous verandas which often feature stout classical columns and chunky railings.

The house at 18 Queen Street has the plain box-like two-and-a-half storey form that is characteristic of Edwardian houses and originally included an alcove-like porch with a stout column. Its construction in wood, was another challenge to the Edwardian style by McCannah who built #26 of logs and used stone for #22 and #24. Its prominent front chimney shows the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement. This chimney is clad in rock-faced concrete blocks that were very popular during the early twentieth century. They gave the appearance of stone while being considerably less expensive.

Description of Heritage Attributes

- The setback, placement and orientation of the Hyde Family Home is in an elevated position on the south-eastern side of Queen Street, in line with the neighbouring houses. It has a terraced front yard with stone steps to the front door but does not include a driveway.
- The scale, form and massing of the building is a two and -a-half storey rectangular form building with combination gable and hipped roof with wide eaves and gable-roofed dormer on the rear (south) elevation.
- Two-bay front (north) elevation with evidence of an enclosed former front porch
- Front (north) elevation chimney in rock-faced concrete block
- Concrete block foundation
- Original flat-headed door opening inside the enclosed former porch
- Original window openings on the front (north) elevation being the ground floor west window and two second floor windows.
- On the rear (south) elevation door and window openings reflecting their placement on the front elevation
- On the east elevation three original second floor window openings with one corresponding window opening at the rear of the ground floor. One small square window corresponding to the interior stair landing.
- On the west elevation four original window openings, two on each floor aligned with each other. One small square window on the second floor.

Documentation

"18 Queen Street, Georgetown Designation," Anne Fisher, Powerpoint Presentation for Heritage Halton Hills Meeting, 18 April 2018.
Halton Hills Municipal Heritage Register, 2019, page 290.
Georgetown Urban Inventory – Phase II Queen and Albert Streets, 1999 & 2001.

Land records for George Kennedy Survey, Georgetown, Halton County (microfilm held by Georgetown Public Library)

Georgetown Assessment Rolls (various)

Census Records for Georgetown Village, Halton County, Dominion of Canada, Library and Archives Canada -on-line (various).

ONLAND, Ontario Land Registry Access,

<https://www.onland.ca/ui/20/books/search> 2019

Ontario Architecture, <http://www.ontarioarchitecture.com/Styles.html> 2019

The Acton Free Press

The Georgetown Herald

Archives of the Esquesing Historical Society, Georgetown, ON

Photographs by Anne Fisher (2018) and John Mark Rowe (2019)

Jean Marc Raymond

Current Owners

The house at 18 Queen Street, Georgetown is currently owned by Jean Marc Raymond.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the author of this report to Heritage Halton Hills to consider designation, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.