

Key Attributes for Designation

Description

The Merchant House, known municipally as 12 Erie Avenue North, Fisherville (RHN CON 5 PT LT7), Haldimand County.

The large family home is located along a predominately residential street on a small parcel of land (82.5' x 172') that was once part of the southwest corner of a 200 acre concession lot. The house remains at its original location and, in keeping with the character of the village of Fisherville, is set well forward on the property.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The cultural heritage value of the Merchant House lies in it being a unique example of a family home constructed in the early 20th century in the Edwardian Classicism style with some Victorian elements.

A stone foundation supports the 2 ½ storey dwelling. Architecturally, the style is simple and symmetrical and the balanced façade is completed through its hip roof and distinctive columnar bay design. The interior is designed in a typical farmhouse layout consisting of a basement, first and second floor and attic. The main entry is covered by a canopy porch which spans the area between the two bays; the canopy, supported by four columns, acts as the deck to a second floor balcony; the balcony is surrounded by a Victorian style wrought iron rail. The doorway to the balcony is plain and simple with a distinctive stained glass panel with a heron design at the centre of the frame.

There are six windows located on the front façade; the first and second floor windows are rectangular with decorative stained glass transoms.; the two attic dormer windows are smaller with no decorative elements.

The home's original exterior (stamped metal exterior siding with brick pattern) has been clad with white aluminum siding.

Associative Value

Christian Held III was born in Rainham Township, May 18, 1867; he and his wife, Susanna (nee Reichheld) raised five children. Christian died April 1, 1936 and is buried at the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Fisherville.

In addition to being a well-respected merchant and family-man, Christian is noted for his ownership of the Erie House (now known as the Fisherville Tavern), the first building in Fisherville to have electricity.

Four generations of the Held Family have occupied the home beginning with Christian's daughter Eva and her husband, Sidney Cronk. Sidney Cronk was a farmer, insurance broker and elected Reeve of Rainham in 1957.

Contextual Attributes

The dwelling at 12 Erie Avenue North, Fisherville was most likely built for/by Christian Held and his family ca. 1900. The home is a significant building in a landscape along Erie Avenue North, Fisherville and is bordered by a trimmed lawn, trees, shrubs and a wrought iron fence.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that represent the heritage value of the dwelling include:

1. Stained glass transoms on the front façade and second storey balcony door.

Key interior attributes that represent the heritage value of the dwelling:

1. Oak hardwood floors in dining room in frame pattern.
2. Pocket doors in a five panel design.
3. Wooden balustrade including: (a) Handrail leading to second floor and at first floor landing; (b) Symmetrical balusters; (c) Newel posts (main floor and first floor landing) with ball-like finial; (d) Stringer board and base rail.