

Gormley Heritage Conservation District

The District Inventory 2008

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The District Documents

The Gormley Heritage Conservation District Plan is published in two volumes:

1. This District Inventory

Part One describes the Architectural Styles found in the District.

Part Two describes every every property in the District.

- Contains photographs and descriptions of each building.
- Contains historical information, where available.

2. The Study and Plan.

- Describes the history of Gormley.
- Examines its physical and cultural heritage character.
- Considers existing development controls.
- Recommends that a Gormley Heritage Conservation District is warranted, and recommends a boundary.
- Contains the Heritage Statements required by the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Establishes policies for the District.
- Recommends other municipal policies to support the District.
- Establishes systems for implementation of the District
- Establishes guidelines for changes to properties in the District.

1.2 Unity of the Documents

These documents are complementary, and they are to be considered as a whole in interpreting the Plan.

2.0 Architectural Styles in Gormley

Gormley has a variety of architecture styles and building types. This Section briefly describes those styles and types and shows the principal features of each style.

GEORGIAN: 1800-1860

The United Empire Loyalists brought the Neo-Palladian Georgian style with them, and their houses are sometimes referred to a “Loyalist” or “Yankee Style.”

The 1½-storey “Loyalist” cottage is one of Ontario’s most common historical styles. The attic storey wasn’t taxed, which made it a popular design.

A large 2-storey Georgian house might have 5 bays.

Wall materials might be wood clapboard, brick, or stone, depending on the location, and the wealth of the owner.

ONTARIO GOTHIC VERNACULAR: 1830-1890

Revived, 1980 to present

The Gothic Revival in architecture was part of the cultural shift that produced the Romantic Movement in literature: the emotional and personal set above the rationality of the Enlightenment, and nature set above culture. The writings of Pugin and Ruskin firmly attached medieval architectural forms to what was a socially and politically progressive intellectual movement—an early example of style over substance.

The most striking characteristic of the Gothic styles, in contrast to their Georgian predecessors, is their verticality. Gables are steep; windows are tall and narrow, often with pointed arches.

A second characteristic is the sinuous decorative line—what we now call gingerbread—derived from Gothic window tracery.

The 1½-storey Ontario Gothic cottage is even more widespread than its Georgian equivalent—it appears as isolated farmhouses, and in long urban rows. The small central gable above the front door remains Ontario’s most persistent domestic design motif, appearing on houses of every style and date.

In the last thirty years, the Ontario Gothic Vernacular has been a very popular design for historical reproduction houses.

QUEEN ANNE REVIVAL: 1890-1914

Queen Anne Revival is unusual in being a popular style that can be fairly attributed to a single architect. Richard Norman Shaw was the most successful British architect of the late 19th century, and he devised a style for his wealthy country-house clients that freely borrowed from

English vernacular architecture of the Tudor and Stuart periods. Timbering, tile-hung gable ends, horizontal window bands, and bay windows were among the design motifs that he applied to houses that were rambling and asymmetrical in plan and elevation. When he pioneered the “garden suburb” at Bedford Park in 1865 he adapted his style to smaller middle-class houses. Shaw didn’t coin the term Queen Anne Revival, and the style isn’t a historic revival at all, but borrows details from many styles.

Queen Anne designs were shown at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition, and were enthusiastically adopted in North America. A significant adaptation on this side of the Atlantic was the addition of broad and often complex verandahs, which didn’t feature in the English originals. The tiles on the gable-ends often gave way to shingles, often cut into decorative patterns. Pattern is a hallmark of the Queen Anne style, and decoration largely consists of varied patterns in gables, roof shingles, and brickwork.

It’s been said that a Queen Anne house doesn’t follow any architectural rules, but just goes its own way.

VERNACULAR HOMESTEAD: 1890-1930

The vernacular homestead style answered the same need for a modest house that the California bungalow answered to, but it relied on an earlier and simpler tradition.

The basic gable-roof Georgian house was turned on its site to suit a narrower and less expensive lot. A straightforward side-hall plan resulted in a typical front elevation with four openings, symmetrically placed.

Variations included the addition of an ell to one side, and provision of a small porch or full-width verandah.

With the ground floor window enlarged for display, the basic form was used for shops in villages and small towns, with the shop in the downstairs front, and the family quarters upstairs and behind.

THE EDWARDIAN STYLES 1900-1930

In rejecting the excess of the ornate Victorian styles, the Arts and Crafts and Queen Anne styles looked to English vernacular architecture for inspiration. The Edwardian styles made a different choice. As has so often happened when things seem to be getting out of hand, there was a return to classical forms and attitudes. Classical moderation and repose rejected emphatic verticality or horizontality, and sought a balance in proportions. Classical motifs such as columns and pediments reappeared. This is not a revival, but a new style that makes use of classical forms.

Edwardian Classicism

Edwardian Classicism in urban Ontario typically takes the form of a 2- or 3-bay red-brick house. The overall impression is of great solidity. Roofs are most commonly hipped, with a front-gable

pediment set to one side, but some houses have front gables. Verandahs, supported on classical columns on stone-capped brick piers are a hallmark of the style. Stone sills and lintels are fairly common.

The availability of large panes of glass allowed the principal ground floor window to be very wide, and it often had a shallow leaded transom above it. Front doors had a large pane of glass, about 2/3 of the height of the door.

Four-square

Four square, sometimes called American Four-square, has the basic form of the Edwardian Classic style. It's typically a red-brick house of great solidity, and has a classically-columned porch or verandah. But as the name suggests, it's a no-nonsense style, with minimal decorative elements and a simplified form.

Roofs are hipped, with small hipped-roof dormers. Windows are simple one-over-one sash, and are typically a bit smaller than Edwardian ones. Sills are usually stone, but lintels are usually brick. The wide living-room window with its leaded transom is too extravagant for the four-square sensibility.

The four-square house was widely built in Ontario in town and country.

CAPE COD COTTAGE: 1925-1955

In the 1920s and '30s, "Period Revival" styles became popular for house construction. Tudor, French Chateau, and American Colonial designs were used—first for large estates, and later for small ordinary dwellings. In terms of numbers constructed, and longevity of basic form, the Cape Cod cottage was the most successful of these revival styles.

The design is fairly faithful to its historical originals in New England: symmetrical plan, panelled door, Georgian double-hung windows with shutters, steep roof with optional dormers. While the Massachusetts originals were built with wood clapboard, the 20th century version often used brick, or even stone for the exterior facing.

DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL: 1900-1930

Dutch Colonial is one of the period revival styles described on the previous page. Like the Cape Cod cottage it was readily adapted to modest dwellings, and at that scale it might be called Cape Cod with a gambrel roof. The roof, which is the characteristic of the style, provides a greater amount of usable floor space in the attic, compared to the Cape Cod's gable. The usefulness of the design may explain its popularity and longevity.

VICTORY HOUSING: 1939-1955

This modest and stripped-down version of the Cape Cod cottage was produced in the thousands. Many were built near factories during the Second World War to house workers for the war effort that created Canada's manufacturing base. After the war, returning veterans

built many more on their \$5000 housing allocation from the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA).

2.1.2 Non-Heritage Styles Residential Buildings

VERNACULAR BUNGALOW: 1900-1955

For more than half a century, the vernacular bungalow was the common Ontario answer to the need for a small inexpensive home. It was a common "starter home" in post-World War II housing developments.

The most basic form has a simple rectangular plan, a hipped roof, and one storey. A common elaboration is a small rectangular projection, like the one found on 200 Gormley Road West.

RANCH HOUSE: 1950-1975

The ranch house was the predominant style for suburban construction for three decades after the Second World War. The design owes something to Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian houses in its long, low profile and informal interior plan, but it takes other design cues from familiar domestic precedents. For example, where a modernist house would have full floor-to-ceiling glazing, the ranch house has a "picture window", which is wide, but has a traditional sill height, and probably a pair of shutters.

2.1.3 Heritage Styles Commercial Buildings

VERNACULAR VILLAGE SHOP: 1850-1910

Town shops, like in the old downtown of Richmond Hill, fill their lot frontages and create a solid line of storefronts. Village shops are freestanding buildings with sideyards, and varied front yard setbacks.

The most typical form is a two-storey gable-front building with the shop downstairs and living quarters above—very similar to the vernacular homestead house style. Sometimes a rectangular false-front is provided to mimic the profile of Town shops. Verandahs are common.

Window display runs the range from scarcely- larger-than-a-house-window to a full storefront with a recessed entrance.

2.1.4 Heritage Styles Agricultural Buildings

GABLE- ROOFED TOWN-BARN OR STABLE SHOP: 1850-1920

A 19th century village property was self-contained in a way that a town property wasn't. It took some work to look after the house and grounds, and a multi-purpose outbuilding was often built to accommodate a variety of needs: storage for garden and orchard implements; a workshop to repair the implements; storage of wagons and carriages; and stabling for pleasure horses.

Design and construction are similar to rural agricultural barns. The size is smaller, in keeping with the more modest requirements of a village household compared to a full-scale farm.

3.0 Inventory of Buildings

The following pages contain the Study Inventory, which depicts and describes every property in the Study Area.

Information from the Richmond Hill Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance is included for the buildings that are listed in that document.

This inventory is listed on a street-by-street basis, in alphabetical order.

FARMER COURT

3 Farmer Court

Walter and Faith (Manock Rogerson) NewnsHouse

Year Built: 1936

Style: Vernacular mansard

Storeys: 1 ½

Classification: Not inventoried

Roof: Mansard; asphalt shingles

Windows: mixed, modern

Description: Much renovated, based on the construction date given in the tax rolls. House faces toward Gormley Road West. A pair of simple boxes: to the left—a 2-storey with the second floor contained in a large mansard roof, which is projected to the front and supported on slim steel posts; to the right—a one story with a shallower mansard, and containing a pair of garages. Lot has a wide lawn and mature trees.

History: The original house was log construction.

5 Farmer Court

Paul and Doreen (Reaman) Farmer House

Year Built: 1955

Style: Ranch house

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried.

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Side gable; asphalt shingles.

Windows: Mixed, modern

Description: classic ranch house, with front-gable on the left. Extremely massive chimney in right hand wall, with recessed two-door garage to the right of that. Lush planting of trees and shrubs on a large lot embeds the house in a natural setting. It is impossible to see more than glimpses of the house through the vegetation. Two old outbuildings behind.

7 Farmer Court

Peter and Arnold Stehouwer House

Year Built: 1995

Style: Modern

Storeys: 2

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped; asphalt shingles

Windows: Mixed, modern; sliders and fixed over awnings

Description: Could be called a modern version of the Foursquare style prevalent in the village. Simple two bay hipped roof box. Long wedge-shaped lot tucked into the curve of the Stouffville Road re-alignment. Long landscaped driveway. Lots of young, maturing trees. Two outbuildings behind.

The house can best be seen from the other side of Stouffville Road.

GORMLEY COURT

1 Gormley Court

Alfred and Betsy (Heise) Brillinger House

Year Built: 1920

Style: Edwardian Classical

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Windows: Replacement Casements

Description: A very substantial and much modified Edwardian house. The original asymmetrical gable has been replaced with a full-width gable, the verandah has been enclosed, and all the windows have been replaced with casements. There is a large flat-roofed addition to the left rear, dating from the 1950s (see history, opposite). There's a large recent outbuilding to the east, which is in keeping with the historic outbuildings of Gormley.

History: This substantial red brick house was built in the Edwardian Classical style by Alfred Brillinger, a local farmer. In *The Liberal* of August 7, 1919, it was reported that Mr. Brillinger had his cellar dug, and was preparing to begin building at once. The house was probably built in 1920, as *The Liberal* reported in January of 1921 that he had sold his farm on Lot 3, Concession 3, Whitchurch Township and expected to move into his new home in West Gormley. This was probably Alfred Brillinger's retirement home. It once housed the Bible College of the Brethren in Christ Church. Beginning in the 1950s, the house was used as a nursing home known as the Gormley Rest Home. A flat-roofed white brick addition was made to the original building to accommodate this use. In 1994, the property was sold and the house was converted back to a single family residence.

Comments: Future alterations to the 1950s addition might make it more sympathetic to the original design. The original open veranda had a Classical dignity, which might be restored in the future.

2 Gormley Court

Year Built: 1990

Style: Ranch house

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: mixed

Description: A large ranch house with a sprawling asymmetrical and angled plan, with a mixture of shallow gable and shed roofs. Large lot, precast retaining walls, maturing trees.

History: The Levi and Anna (Hoover) Schell house (1914) stood on this site previously.

21 Gormley Court

John and Sarah Vogelzang House

Year Built: 1998

Style: Ranch house

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped, asphalt shingles

Windows: Casements

Description: Long horizontal massing under long low sloped roof. The garage element projects on the left, with the doors facing inward to the right. There is a wide, shallow, hipped-roof entrance portico, supported on two columns. The house is set well back from the street, and the front yard is well-treed and well-planted.

26 Gormley Court

Joseph and Fanny (Honsberger) Farmer House

Year Built: 1918

Style: Four-square

Storeys: 2 1/2

Classification: Inventoried

Foundation: Concrete Block

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Windows: Original 1/1 double-hung

Description: A classic foursquare house, upright and solid. Typical hipped-roof with central hipped-roof dormer, and simple windows tucked under the substantial eaves. There is a shallow ground-floor bay window on the west wall with a wide-eaved hipped roof.

The verandah, which probably was originally supported on Classical columns, has been enclosed, and has had a bay window added to the right of the entry. There is a further one-storey addition on the right of the house, also with a bay window.

History: The Historical Atlas of York County, 1878, shows a house near this location on the farm property of Thomas and Catharine Farmer. The Farmer family acquired 78 acres of Lot 1, Concession 3, Whitchurch Township, from John Klinck in 1873. Joseph Farmer, whose occupation was "farmer," was the son of Thomas and Catharine. The earlier house shown on the old map has disappeared, but the present house, built in the American Foursquare style, was constructed on a small parcel of the family farm in 1919. Alvin Farmer, Thomas' grandson, was a long-time auctioneer in the community. Alvin's brother Percy was the operator of the local planing mill and ruler factory.

Comments: The main house is substantially intact, including original glazing. Future alterations to the veranda and one-storey addition might increase their sympathy to the original building. Extensive outbuildings to the left rear.

27 Gormley Court

Allan and Lavinia May (Fennel) Pope House

Year Built: 1959

Style: Ranch house

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: Mixed, main picture window w/ double-hung flankers.

Description: Classic early ranch house, with wide shallow front-facing gable on the right. Projecting double-width garage on the left with shallow front gable. Set well back from the road on a well-treed and well-planted lot.

History: Allan Pope was the last station master. The house was built by George Barrett (17 Gormley Road West).

31 Gormley Court

Clarence and Ruth (Brechbill) Heise House

Year Built: 1926

Style: Re-modeled Edwardian Classical

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick, recent

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: Replacement mixed, including glass block

Description: A much altered Edwardian Classical house.

Large parking lot and industrial-scale outbuildings to the right rear.

History: This gable-fronted Edwardian Classical style house was constructed *circa* 1926 for Clarence E. Heise, a missionary of the Heise Hill Brethren in Christ Church. He purchased the apiary (beekeeping business) of D. W. Heise in 1926 at about the same time as he bought the property where his house was built. In 1990, the building was extensively remodelled and re-bricked. Prior to this work, the house was clad in the dark red brick typical of the neighbourhood, and had an Edwardian Classical porch that sheltered the front door. The essential lines of the original design are still discernible, particularly the shingled gable above the pent eave, and the substantial eaves returns. The central position of the front door and the shape and size of the window openings remain, though the details are modern.

Comments: Little of the original architecture is visible below the eaves.

32 Gormley Court

Samuel and Christina (Heise) Baker House

Year Built: 1858-relocated in 1970s

Style: Pennsylvania German vernacular

Storeys: 1 1/2

Classification: Inventoried

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 double-hung

Description: A 5-bay side-gable vernacular house, with a full width shed-roof veranda. Original 1858 windows probably had more and smaller lights. Stilted shed-roof dormer is probably not

original. Moved from the north side of Stouffville Road. Originally a double house (see history, opposite). Set well back from the road on a well-treed lot.

History: The Rev Samuel Baker Jr. house is the oldest documented building in the hamlet of Gormley. It was moved to its current location during the late 1970s when Stouffville Road was rerouted in connection with the extension of Highway 404. It originally faced east on the north side of Stouffville Road and was part of a farm complex that included a number of historic barns.

The Baker house is particularly significant because it reflects the Pennsylvania German heritage of its builders, unlike the majority of other dwellings in the hamlet, which are typical of their period of construction in terms of form and detailing. Prior to renovations, the house had two front doors, indicating that it was built to contain two dwelling units, the smaller being a “grossdoddy” residence for the elder members of the family - an early version of what we would call a “granny flat” in today’s terms. The one and a half storey frame house has retained its form, but the placement of door and window openings on the front has been altered to a 5 bay, centre door arrangement.

GORMLEY ROAD EAST

8 Gormley Road East

Anthony and Donna Marsiglio House

Year Built: 1986

Style: Modern Victorian Gothic

Storeys: 1 ½

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Side Gable, with central front gable; asphalt shingles.

Windows: Double-hung 1/1

Description: A large wide modern take on the archetypal Ontario farmhouse. 3 bays, double entrance doors, and large round-head window in the central gable with fan light at top. Garage is lower side gable, slightly recessed to the left. Large lot, largely lawn, with some maturing trees.

9 Gormley Road East

Keith and Mildred Hood House

Year Built: 1988

Style: Ranch house

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped, with side gable at joint with garage; asphalt shingles

Windows: casements w/decorative mullion bars

Description: 5-bay ranch house with elaborated and recessed entrance bay. Garage on the left is slightly lower and recessed, with doors on the left wall, not visible from the street. Circular driveway. Outbuilding to the left. Maturing trees.

21 Gormley Road East

John and Pearl (Hunt) Sider House

Year Built: 1921

Style: Four-square

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 Double-hung

Description: Classic foursquare house with the typical hipped roof and central hipped-roof dormer. Very fine original glazing. Handsome Classical shed-roof veranda with shallow gable over entrance. The chubby columns are particularly distinctive, and the handsome railing appears to be original. Decorative, non-authentic shutters. Well-treed lot.

History: John R. Sider, a labourer, reportedly lived in a frame stable on the property while his house was being built in 1921. Prior to the construction of the new house, John and Pearl (Hunt) Sider lived in the Mannock house (106 Gormley Road West).

This house, built in the American Foursquare style, is 2 ½ stories and is distinguished with a prominent front verandah with a centre pediment, supported on tapered octagonal posts resting on brick pedestals. The house is red brick and retains its original wood windows, some with patterned glass in the transom sashes. A noteworthy feature is the flat area on the hipped

roof, enclosed with a later railing. At the street entrance to the front walk, there are two octagonal gateposts made of cast concrete. The gambrel-roofed carriage house or stable that served as the temporary home of the Sider family still stands behind the house.

Comments: Design of shutters and widow's walk railing is not authentic. There is access to the widow's walk by way of a hatch.

22 Gormley Road East

James and Lydia (Brillinger) Hunt House

Year Built: 1917

Style: Four Square/Edwardian

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Windows: 1/1 Double-hung

Description: Foursquare house with some design eccentricities. The asymmetrical second floor windows are unusual, as is the gable-roofed wing at the left rear. (what is the band of dash-dot brick a few courses below the eaves?) Full width veranda with shallow hipped roof wraps around into the ell on the right. Two bay garage to the right rear. Decorative shutters are not authentic. House handsomely framed by big mature trees.

History: The Hunt house is a variation on the American Foursquare style, having a gable-roofed wing on the rear half of its east side. Its construction was reported in the September 20, 1917 issue of The Liberal. James Hunt was a thresher by occupation, who moved into the village of Richmond Hill and built another red brick house in 1923. His Gormley home featured transomed windows with amber coloured, textured glass. Several years ago the original porch in the ell had disappeared, but in more recent times, a wrap-around verandah has been built in a style sympathetic to the design of this early 20th century house.

24 Gormley Road East

Stanley E. and Mabel (Flintoff) Eade House

Year Built: 1958

Style: vernacular cottage

Storeys: 1 ½

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: vinyl clapboard

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: Mixed. Fixed glass and casements.

Description: A straightforward front-gabled cottage with a full-width shed-roof verandah, with a small central gable. Generally similar to 49A Gormley Road East. Entrance door and verandah posts are offset slightly to the left. Decorative louvers applied to gable end. Many large conifers; shrubbery at the front foundation.

History: Stanley E. Hunt, known as “Ern” was a section foreman, living in the Section House on Station Road. He built this house for his retirement.

Comments: Offset of entrance and verandah posts leaves the little verandah gable looking oddly un-supported.

25 Gormley Road East

John and Pearl (Hunt) Sider House

Year Built: 1949

Style: Vernacular Bungalow

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried

Foundation: Decorative concrete block

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped, with front gable wing, asphalt shingles

Windows: Original leaded windows in front gable.

Description: Modest vernacular bungalow. L-plan with angled entrance in the ell. Decorative precast at foundation, sills and in quoining around the entry door. Graceful shallow segmental arches above the window openings. Big conifers out front.

28 Gormley Road East

George and Alberta (Lehman) Baker House

Year Built: 1908

Style: Edwardian eccentric

Storeys: 2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Ornamental Concrete Block

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 Double-hung

Description: A very eccentric building that showed off the product line of the owner's North American Cement Block and Tile Company. An unusual convex mansard roof tops a simple 2-bay foursquare façade, and a conically-roofed verandah supported on chubby fluted columns sits on the right front corner. Walls, lintels, sills, columns, column bases, and the porch finial are all precast products of George Baker's company across the road. Original 4/1 Edwardian glazing is intact. Richly planted yard with mature deciduous and coniferous trees. Outbuilding to left rear.

History: The George W. Baker house is a singular building; without question it is one of the most historic and architecturally interesting buildings in the hamlet. It was built in 1908 by the proprietor of the North American Cement Block and Tile Company, and was undoubtedly intended to serve as a showpiece of his product line. The form of this moulded concrete block house is similar to the other early 20th century homes in the area, being 2 storeys in height and following the general pattern of the Edwardian Classical style. What sets this example apart from the rest, aside from the variety of ornamental cast concrete building components, is its unusual convex mansard roof and the corner verandah with its conical roof and concrete ball finial (added in 1915).

The concrete components that act as accents to the rock-faced block walls are decorated with Classically-derived motifs. These include quoins, lintels and a belt course between the levels of the first and second floor. The block has been painted but better preserves its decorative detailing than the blocks used on the former company office and plant across the road.

Comments: The role of the block factory in creating the wealth that built Gormley in the early 20th century makes this showcase house an essential heritage resource in the District.

33 Gormley Road East

George and Melinda (Sheffer) Hilts House

Year Built: 1922

Style: Queen Anne Revival

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 Double-hung. Replacement slider in gable end.

Description: The asymmetrical plan, the indented and shingled gable, and the ornate verandah mark this house as a Queen Anne. The conically-roofed corner verandah may have been inspired by the earlier one at 28 Gormley Road East. Incongruous bits of store-bought gingerbread alongside original Classic verandah capitals. Lush landscaping, broad lawn, big trees. Outbuilding at rear.

History: The George T. Hilts house is an excellent and well-preserved late example of the Queen Anne Revival style. It combines many of the features of other early 20th century homes in the neighbourhood - red brick, pedimented gables, wrap around verandah with a conical roofed corner pavilion - in a particularly picturesque manner. The house was built in 1922 by George Hilts, a gardener by trade and a descendant of Johann Hiltz (later changed to John Hilts), an early Pennsylvania German settler in the district.

The Hilts house, built in 1922, has retained intact the Tuscan columns, sawn balusters and other details of its elaborate wrap-around verandah, the most noteworthy feature of the building. Further enhancing the decorative effect is leaded art glass in some of the ground floor windows. On the property is a frame carriage house and a pair of masonry gateposts that have ball-shaped finials that tie in with the detail on the roof of the verandah pavilion.

Comments: Future alterations that restored the gable window and removed the inappropriate verandah gingerbread would improve the authenticity of the house.

37 Gormley Road East

Year Built: 1952

Style: Industrial

Storeys: variety of buildings on site; 1-5 storeys in height

Classification: Not inventoried

Description: The Unilock precast concrete plant is the successor to George Baker's North American Cement Block and Tile Company.

Comments: A logical successor to the original concrete block plant, it recalls an important aspect of Gormley's heritage. Nonetheless, it generates a lot of noise and truck traffic that is at odds with the otherwise peaceful and rural setting.

The railway was key to the origin of the concrete block company at this location, but the facility no longer has a rail connection, and is completely dependent on highway transportation.

38 Gormley Road East

William Bestard House

Year Built: c. 1909

Style: Four-square eccentric

Storeys: 2 1/2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Ornamental Concrete Block

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: Replacement, fixed glass.

Description: A foursquare house, with unusual touches: constructed of the locally-produced decorative concrete block; having a shallow mansard octagonal corner porch; and having that octagon impressed into the main building creating an angled entry bay. Later 2-storey board and batten addition to the right rear. Outbuilding to the right rear. Lush landscaping with large mature trees.

History: This concrete block house is a less pretentious version of its neighbour, the George W. Baker House. It was built circa 1909 by William Bestard, a mechanic and the adopted son of John Bestard and Mary (Williams) Bestard. Prior to moving to Gormley, he lived on a farm on Lot 32, Concession 2, Markham Township in a house that still stands at 12 Mathias Court.

The Bestard house was constructed in the American Foursquare style using some of the products of the North American Cement Block and Tile Company. The richly textured rock-faced walls are accented with prominent quoining and a belt course between the ground floor and second floor. The polygonal corner pavilion, with its flat roof and stout poured concrete posts, adds visual interest to the design. The concrete block and slab railing is an unusual feature.

Comments: Future alterations might include restoration of historically authentic windows.

48 Gormley Road East

Jabez and Eva May (Williams) Thompson House

Year Built: 1860

Style: Ontario Gothic Vernacular

Storeys: 1 1/2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Synthetic clapboard

Roof: Side gable, with central front gable; asphalt shingles

Windows: Double-hung 2/2

Description: Traditional Ontario Gothic cottage, of the sort that 8 Gormley Road East is modeled after. Quite intact. Deep lot, mature trees. Substantial outbuilding to the right rear.

On October 29, 1908, The Liberal reported that "Houses are increasing in West Gormley. Mr. Thompson moved one in from Vinegar Hill." Jabez Thompson was a section foreman with the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway. The property was in his wife Eva May's name. The precise location of "Vinegar Hill" is not known, but local tradition records that the house was moved from a site on the east side of Leslie Street, south of the Doner farm.

This frame house appears to date from the 1860s, and was updated after its 1908 move to Gormley. With its centre gable, storey and a half height and three-bay front, it is a typical example of a Classic Ontario Farmhouse. The location next to the railway line is an important aspect of the history of the house, given the fact that its original occupant was employed by the railway in a supervisory capacity.

49 Gormley Road East

Year Built: 1907

Style: Vernacular mill office

Storeys: 2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Ornamental Concrete Block

Roof: Built-up roofing

Description: Much altered commercial building, purpose built to house the offices of the block factory.

History: This concrete block building has seen a number of changes over the years, but when it was built in 1907 it housed George W. Baker's North American Cement Block and Tile Company. There used to be a water tank on the roof that is said to have supplied water to the steam engines of the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway for a time. Before the train station was built, this building was reported to have been generously offered by Mr. Baker as shelter for the

patrons of the new railway. The concrete block business operated from about 1907 into the 1920s. In later years, the building housed a planing mill and a Massey-Ferguson farm machinery outlet.

The Baker building showcased some of the products of the company in its construction. The decorative details on the blocks have been obscured to some extent by weathering and by the application of a concrete paint. On the front, the blockwork has been covered by stucco. A significant alteration done in recent years was the removal of the distinctive crenellated parapet and its replacement with a low-pitched gable. In spite of these changes, the Baker building retains its basic cubic form and window and door openings, preserving something of its original character.

Comments: The block factory played a very significant part in Gormley's history. But the building, in its present form and condition, no longer represents that role.

49 A Gormley Road East

Year Built: 1914, converted to dwelling later

Style: Arts and Crafts

Storeys: 1 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Board and Batten

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: Double-hung, multi-lights over large single light

Description: Small, simple front-gable cottage, converted from commercial use (see history, opposite). Fine Arts and Crafts windows and entry door, and an elegant bell-cast roofed veranda on slender posts. Later shed dormer on left side of roof, and later 'gingerbread' bargeboard. Big conifers out front.

History: This frame cottage was constructed on the Baker property in the early 1910s to serve as a change room and concession stand for an open-air ice rink. It also provided space for a travelling branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and a dental office. The building was later converted into a modest house for George W. Baker's son when he married, and has served as a residence ever since.

GORMLEY ROAD WEST

Gormley Road West

John Doner farmland

Year Bought: 1807

Description: The original patent for Lot 35, was given to Jacob Miller in 1805. Two years later the original John Doner bought the land. The current John Doner continues to farm this land—which has been in the same family for 201 years.

The agricultural use of this land is a part of the heritage of Gormley, and is protected by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Official Plan, and the Zoning By-law.

The heart of the Doner agricultural enterprise rises south of the railway, outside of the Study Area.

106 Gormley Road West

Joseph Manock House

Year Built: 1855-moved to Gormley about 1907

Style: Georgian Cottage

Storeys: 1 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Synthetic clapboard

Roof: Side-gable; asphalt shingles

Windows: Replacement, mixed

Description: Archetypal 3-bay 1 ½ storey Ontario Georgian cottage. Unsympathetic replacement windows, skylight, shed addition at right rear, and decorative shutters.

Set fairly close to the road, by Gormley standards, but in keeping with the original siting of buildings of this period.

History: This small, simple dwelling is another older home relocated to the Gormley hamlet during the community's expansion period the early 20th century. It is believed to have been built in the mid 19th century by John Heise. About 1907, it was moved to its current site by Joseph Mannock, a labourer, from somewhere in the vicinity of the north east corner of the Stouffville Sideroad and Leslie Street. The house is of frame construction, and was originally designed as a three-bay, Georgian tradition worker's cottage clad in vertical wood siding. It has been greatly updated with new windows and modern siding, but still retains its distinctive form as an early building, perhaps being the oldest in the hamlet.

Comments: Future alterations might include restoration of the valuable pre-Confederation building that lies under the modern siding and behind the picture windows.

120 Gormley Road West

Gormley Missionary Church

Year Built: 1931

Style: Vernacular church

Storeys: 1

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Windows: Mixed. Modernist stained glass main window.

Description: The main building is a simple steep-gabled vernacular church form, with an A-B-A symmetry in the openings. A later addition on the right houses the current entrances to the worship space and the parish hall behind. Although the form is quite different than the earlier frame church shown to the right, the architectural austerity has been maintained.

History: In 1931, the present brick Gormley Missionary Church was erected to replace a smaller frame church dating from the 1870s. The design of the new church departed from the vernacular Gothic Revival theme of the older building, making a fresh, modern architectural statement. It must have been quite a conversation piece in this rural community when it was built, as even in the 1930s, the Gothic Revival was still very much in vogue for Christian churches. The gable-fronted design with its large, steeply pitched roof anticipates the A-frame churches of the 1960s. The rectilinear coloured glass windows are also representative of a innovative and modern spirit expressed by the architect and the congregation. There was never a cemetery associated with the church property. Rather, the departed faithful were interred at the community cemetery at Heise Hill.

132 Gormley Road West

The Parsonage

Year Built: 1950s

Style: Cape Cod Cottage

Storeys: 1 ½

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Side-gable; Asphalt shingle

Windows: Mixed

Description: A classic Cape Cod cottage. 3 bays, central entry, dormers above the side bays. The right bay has an archetypal post-WW2 picture window flanked by narrow double-hung flankers.

The left bay has a triple casement replacing what were once a pair of double-hung windows.

Set well back from the road, with mature landscaping. Neat topiary in front of the house, suited to the period.

Comments: The Cape Cod cottage is a revival style that uses the same New England design precedents that the Empire Loyalists used when they settled Upper Canada. This house makes a good companion to 106 Gormley Road, to which it is stylistically related through a tradition that arcs over more than a century.

146 Gormley Road West

Jeremiah and Margaret Lyon House

Year Built: 1909

Style: Four-square

Storeys: 2 1/2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped; Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 double-hung

Description: Classic foursquare house with extra-large central hipped-roof dormer. Symmetrical façade with full-width hipped roof verandah supported by Tuscan columns on stone-capped brick piers. Original glazing intact. Incongruous Victorian store-bought gingerbread at column capitals. Later decorative clock in the centre of the second floor.

Big lot, big lawn, big trees. Landscaping includes picket fencing and hedging. Large outbuilding behind.

History: Jeremiah Lyons was another railway worker who lived locally. In The Liberal of March 28, 1912, it was reported that this was “a first class brick building with 2 3/8 acres of land, furnace, soft water tank. The view from this home can scarcely be surpassed.” Indeed, the

same is true today. From this American Foursquare style home, one overlooks the expansive cornfield of the historic Doner homestead.

The Lyons House is a red brick, hip roofed dwelling. It has a full width front verandah supported on Tuscan columns, resting on brick pedestals. It is a two storey building with attic rooms lighted by a prominent hip-roofed dormer. In the rear yard is a frame carriage shed.

Comments: Imposing house, and very intact. Future alteration might include removal of inauthentic gingerbread on verandah columns.

151 Gormley Road West

Elizabeth Reaman House

Year Built: 1916

Style: Dutch Colonial

Storeys: 1 1/2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: synthetic clapboard

Roof: Front-gambrel; Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 double-hung

Description: Dutch Colonial gambrel roof, with fully-expressed eaves returns. Unusual in orienting gable ends toward the street. Entry porch is possibly later addition—the current door and windows are surely recent. Shed-roof dormers are probably later additions. 1/1 windows are probably original.

Set fairly close to the road by Gormley standards. Lots of mature trees, both deciduous and coniferous.

History: This modest frame house was built for Elizabeth Reaman, a widow, in 1916. She moved to Gormley from the hamlet of Ringwood, west of Stouffville. Her home was a modest frame dwelling with a street-facing gambrel roof, an urban style of compact home commonly seen in Toronto's suburban neighbourhoods built up in the first quarter of the 20th century. The style is somewhat based on the Dutch Colonial. The house has a glazed enclosed porch that adds architectural interest to the front. There are shed-roofed dormers on both the east and west slopes of the roof.

Comments: The revival of Colonial styles in the US began in the early 20th century. The extra second-floor space provided by the gambrel roof made the Dutch Colonial one of the most persistent of these revival styles.

Original siding material is said to have been vertical wood boards, with a later addition of Insul-brick patterned tarpaper siding.

158 Gormley Road West

Harrison and Gladys (Doner) Schlichter House

Year Built: 1957

Style: Vernacular bungalow

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped, asphalt shingles

Windows: Mixed; replacement fixed over awning

Description: Modest hipped-roof bungalow. Asymmetric façade, with recessed entrance bay on the right. Massive chimney offset to the left rear. Renovation underway at present has added a large front-gable element, with windows somewhat reminiscent of the Ontario Gothic tradition.

Set well back on the lot. Broad lawn, with large conifers.

The house was close to its original configuration in the fall of 2005.

169 Gormley Road West

Ida Manock Cook House

Year Built: 1930

Style: Vernacular

Storeys: 2

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: mixed; fieldstone prominent on front façade.

Roof: Gables, asphalt shingles

Windows: Replacement casements

Description: Several additions to what was perhaps a Homestead style house. Predominant feature is an asymmetrical front-gable projection with a broad recessed entry porch under the

longer left-hand roof slope, and a large 4-ganged casement window on the right. Small outbuilding to the left rear.

172 Gormley Road West

John and Mary-Jane (Dale) Leary House

Year Built: 1909

Style: Four-square

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped; Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 double-hung

Description: Foursquare house with unusual flared roof and three, rather than the normal two windows on the second floor façade. Hipped roof verandah with Classical columns on stone-capped brick piers.

Set well back on a broad lawn. Lots of large mature trees. Unpaved driveway to the left leads to a large and handsome outbuilding.

History: This red brick American Foursquare style house was local farmer John Leary's retirement home. Its construction was recorded in *The Liberal* on August 12 and August 26, 1909: "Mr. Leary and Mr. Forrester are building two fine residences." and "Mr. Leary and Mr. John Forrester are each erecting comfortable brick houses." John Leary was an Irish immigrant who farmed the north 100 acres of Lot 1, Concession 2, Whitchurch Township and also owned 34 acres of Lot 1, Concession 3, within the hamlet of Gormley itself. He donated land for the establishment of a Methodist Church that once stood on the site of the Gormley Missionary Church. Leary's earlier home still stands at 12370 Leslie Street.

The Leary House of 1909 differs from the standard American Foursquare plan in that the placement of the window openings on the facade is asymmetrical. The hip roof has flared eaves that add interest to the composition. The house has a full-width Edwardian Classical verandah typical of the style and period of the house. On the property is a frame carriage shed with a tilted gable window or "tip window" –a feature often seen in the rural buildings of Vermont and New Hampshire.

Henhouse at the rear.

183 Gormley Road West

Reverend Thomas S. and Cora (Herr) Doner House

Year Built: 1908

Style: Four-square

Storeys: 2 1/2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped; Asphalt shingles

Windows: Replacement fixed over sliders

Description: Very simple foursquare house, with tall, narrow wide-set windows, and a simple gabled pediment portico with Classical columns on stone capped brick piers. Hipped-roof dormer. Central chimney.

Large mature trees. The lot is very large and runs south all the way to the railway property. Large outbuilding to the rear.

History: Thomas Steckley. Doner was a minister of the Tunker or Brethren in Christ Church at Heise Hill. His house, constructed about 1908, is a very simple version of the American Foursquare style. Its windows are tall and narrow, reflecting more of a late Victorian design than the larger windows one would expect in an Edwardian period home. The front porch is also somewhat of a departure from the standard model. Although its Edwardian Classical detailing is typical of the period, a full-width verandah would have been more in keeping with the scale and style of the Doner House. Perhaps as a clergyman he favoured a less ostentatious dwelling than his neighbours, or perhaps he simply could not afford to embellish his home with more elaborate architectural features.

Comments: The lack of the usual full-width verandah and the narrow and wide-spaced windows provide a sense of Classical solidity. The façade has a very sophisticated proportional scheme—see the diagram below.

188 Gormley Road West

John and Mary (Baker) Forester House

Year Built: 1909

Style: Queen Anne Revival

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped and gabled; Asphalt shingles

Windows: Replacement, mixed

Description: Hipped-roof main mass, with two gable-roof wings—one projecting forward from the left, the other projecting to the right at the rear. The resulting plan has 2 ells, both of which are filled by the wrap around hipped-roof verandah, which has Classical columns on stone-capped brick piers. Right leg of the verandah is enclosed as a sunroom. Front leg of verandah has a balcony on top. The eaves are deep, and the eave returns on the gable ends are substantial. Later addition of gingerbread is inauthentic.

Big trees, jolly random topiary shrubbery at the foundation.

History: The Forresters family were early settlers in Markham Township, possibly coming from Pennsylvania in the late 18th or early 19th century. The spelling of the name varies between Forster, Foster, Forrester and Forester, depending on the sources consulted. George Forster's hewn log house dating from c.1830 still stands at 11715 Leslie Street, on the grounds of Phyllis Rawlinson Park. Similar to John Leary, John Forrester (a descendant or another relative of George Forster) was a local farmer who retired to a new home in Gormley. His farm was on the east half of Lot 4, Concession 2, Whitchurch Township.

The Forrester House is one of the larger and more elaborate dwellings to be erected in the emerging hamlet in the early 20th century. Unlike the functional and block-like American Foursquare style homes favoured by many of the neighbours, John Forrester chose a picturesque, irregular plan that features two projecting, gable-roofed extensions and a wrap-around verandah.

The design is rendered in a simplified late Queen Anne Revival style. The fretwork porch brackets and bargeboards are additions of the 1980s and although they are attractive architectural embellishments, they are not typical of the style and period of this house. The property contains a well-preserved frame hen house.

195 Gormley Road West

Daniel and Elizabeth (Hisey) Doner House

Year Built: 1906

Style: Four-square/Edwardian

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Stucco

Roof: Hipped; Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 double-hung

Description: Straightforward Foursquare massing, but takes advantage of the corner site by providing a Classically proportioned portico at the Gormley Road West entrance, and a more informal full-width hipped-roof verandah on the left, facing Gormley Station Road. Big mature trees, both coniferous and deciduous.

History: Daniel H. Doner, a farmer, was the son of Peter Doner and Elizabeth Heise. In 1906, he had one of the first new houses in the village built by David W. Heise. This was a busy location, being at the entrance to Gormley Station Road.

The Doner House was designed in the American Foursquare style, but differs from many of the other early 20th century dwellings in the neighbourhood in that it is of frame rather than brick construction. Originally, the house was finished in narrow clapboard, but at a later date, it was clad in stucco. The house features an east-facing verandah and a north facing porch. Of particular architectural interest is the dormer on the front slope of the hip roof, with its closed pediment and palladian window.

Comments: This house shares a style with many other Gormley houses, but it's fairly unusual to see this style rendered in frame construction in south-central Ontario.

200 Gormley Road West

Clarence and Maggie (Baker) Doner House

Year Built: 1956

Style: Vernacular bungalow

Storeys: 1

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Synthetic clapboard

Roof: Hipped, asphalt shingles

Windows: mixed; fixed, casements

Description: Modest hipped-roof bungalow, with central projecting hipped-roof wing. Central chimney.

Renovation currently underway includes the addition of a host of front-facing gables.

Big mature trees and shrubs, handsome foundation shrubbery.

The house was still close to its original configuration in the fall of 2005.

217 Gormley Road West

Peter Cober Store

Year Built: 1912

Style: Eclectic vernacular village shop

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Aluminum clapboard over wood clapboard

Roof: Hipped and gable; Asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 double-hung

Description: The building contains an eclectic mix of architectural elements. The deeply-recessed closed-pediment gable, with its round-head window has a Queen Anne Revival character; the light verandahs, on their slender Tuscan columns, seem Italianate, and the main mass of the house, set behind the shop, has the character of a Foursquare house, with its hipped roof and hipped-roof dormer.

History: The Cober-Johnson Store is the best preserved early commercial building in the Municipality. Although other combination store and residences survive in the historic Village Core of old Richmond Hill, none preserve the original store front as has happened here. The building was constructed as a general store and proprietor's residence in 1912. Its location at the entrance to Gormley Station Road placed it at the business centre of the community, a hub of activity in the days when the railway station was a magnet for commerce and industry.

The building was constructed for the Reverend Peter Cober. It is possible that this store replaced an earlier building, or that the house portion was built before the existing store. At any rate, newspaper articles that appeared in The Liberal in 1912 confirm that Peter Cober was in the process of building a new store at that time. By 1918, the store was owned and operated by John T. Johnson. It closed its doors in 1955.

Architecturally, the building is essentially a clapboarded, frame American Foursquare style residence with a gable-roofed store extension. Both the residential and commercial sections have full-width verandahs supported on slender Tuscan columns, and there is a balcony tucked into the ell above the main entrance to the house. Interestingly, the storefront, with its series of half-round arches and acorn drops, appears to be more of a Confederation-era style rather than a product of 1912.

220 Gormley Road West

David W. and Susannah (Sheffer) Heise House

Year Built: 1906

Style: Queen Anne Revival

Storeys: 2 ½

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Brick

Roof: Hipped and gables; Asphalt shingles

Windows: Mixed; double-hung, single-hung with transom

Description: A simple rendition of the Queen Anne style, with basic massing similar to 188 Gormley Road West: hipped-roof main block, projecting gable-roofed wings in front and to the left, wrap-around verandah filling the ells. This house has the deeply-recessed closed-pediment gables that are characteristic of the style. The verandah had been altered with wrought-iron posts and railings, but has been recently restored with Classic columns on stone capped piers. The original hipped roof is now a large balcony.

Large trees, unpaved driveway to the left leading to a large outbuilding.

David W. Heise built one of the first new houses in Gormley in 1906. By trade he was a carpenter, but from 1914 to 1935, he served as a minister at the Heise Hill Brethren in Christ Church. The beautiful pulpit in the church was crafted by him in the 1920s. In addition to constructing his own house adjoining the new railway line, he was probably responsible for building many other local residences.

The Heise House, named “Laxdale House” at some point in its history, was designed in a simplified Queen Anne Revival style and accented with Edwardian Classical detailing. The plan features two gabled extensions that give the two storey red brick house a picturesque outline. Prior to alterations, the house had a wrap-around verandah supported on Tuscan columns, typical of the period of construction. In the rear yard is a frame carriage shed that resembles a Classic Ontario farmhouse because of its steep centre gable and one and a half storey height. It may have actually been a house at one time, later converted to a carriage house.

STATION ROAD

11 Station Road

Whitney and Eva (Wideman) Johnson House

Year Built: Unknown. Moved to site in 1944

Style: Arts and Crafts cottage, converted to Cape Cod

Storeys: 1 ½

Classification: Not inventoried

Cladding: Vinyl clapboard

Roof: Gable, asphalt shingles

Windows: Replacement casements

Description: Archetypal Cape Cod cottage, with steep side-gable roof, and projecting front-gable wing to the right. A low-sloped verandah, on simple square posts, was built to fill the ell, and projects from the front-gable bay slightly. Shed at rear was originally the “oil house” from the General Store, which housed two large vats for storage of coal oil for lighting and heating.

At about ¼ acre, this is the smallest lot in Gormley. Good planting.

History: Moved to this site from Bayview and Highway 7. The house began life as a modest 1-storey Arts and Crafts cottage, with the characteristic 3/1 ganged windows. The main roof was a low-sloped side gable, with a slightly projecting front-gable wing on the right. See old photo below.

12 Station Road

David W and Jacob Heise Double House

Year Built: c. 1908

Style: Vernacular homestead—double house.

Storeys: 2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Wood clapboard

Roof: Side gable w/ front-gable ells; asphalt shingles

Windows: 1/1 Double-hung

Description: Most simply described as a pair of L-plan vernacular homestead houses, joined at the hip. Mirror image design with one-bay projecting front-gable wings at the outside, connected by a pair of two-bay side gable masses. A simple shed-roof verandah spans between the projecting bays.

The symmetry is reflected in the matching mature trees in the front yards, and the matching hedging.

History: This frame double house was built by David W. Heise and Jacob A. Heise circa 1908. In early photographs, it appears as a stucco building located amidst the busy station grounds. In fact, the road was then, and still is, owned by the railway. The house has a U-shaped plan and may have been intended as a rental property to provide income for its builders, perhaps housing people employed in local businesses.

To the north of the house is a one and a half storey frame blacksmith shop. Although it is believed to have been built in 1909, it looks more like a 19th century building with its 6 over 6 windows and general character. An early operator of the blacksmith shop was Eli Mantle, formerly of Richmond Hill's famous Trench Carriage Works. F.W. Woodward took over the operation in 1912. In the 1920s, a ruler factory was established in the building by the Farmer brothers. One interesting item they produced was a measuring stick for determining the levels in gas tanks, a new item in demand as gasoline powered vehicles became more plentiful. To the rear of the frame blacksmith shop is a white brick addition, built out of bricks produced at the Willcox Lake Brick Company plant.

26 Station Road

Jabez and Eva May (Williams) Thompson Residence

Year Built: 1910

Style: Four-square

Storeys: 2

Classification: Inventoried

Cladding: Insulbrik

Roof: Hipped; Asphalt shingles

Windows: 2/2 double-hung

Description: Modest 2-storey hipped roof house. Could be called a frame Foursquare, or it could be classed as a classic railway building.

History: This two storey frame house was built by the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway as a Section House, providing accommodation for the Section Foreman or Station Agent and his family. Jabez Thompson was the first Section Manager. It is a modest version of the American Foursquare model, and is still owned by the railway (the C.N.R. since 1923). The building appears on an early survey of Section 27 of the Bala Subdivision. It may have been built as early as 1907, but more research is required to confirm the date of construction.

The photo on the left shows Don Hall, the last Section Manager. He and his family lived in the house for about 30 years, but it is no longer occupied.

THE OUTBUILDINGS

The large number of substantial outbuildings in Gormley are a significant aspect of the village character. Some of the more substantial examples are shown here.

12 Station Road

This building has particular interest because of its former industrial uses as a blacksmith shop, and later a ruler factory. Before electric fuel gauges were invented, you dipped a marked measuring stick into the gas tank. 100,000 of these items were produced per year in this little building.

5 Farmer Court

220 Gormley Road West

26 Gormley Road East

33 Gormley Road East

172 Gormley Road West

220 Gormley Road West