

33 MURRAY AVENUE  
REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (October 2018)  
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)

ATTACHMENT 3

The property at 33 Murray Avenue (Harris-White House) is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under all three categories of design, associative and contextual value.

Description

The Harris-White House, constructed in 1888 is a one-and-a-half storey single family dwelling with red brick cladding and a raised stone foundation. In 1946 a kitchen extension with an enclosed porch was added to the west and now faces the street and the brick cladding was painted white. In 1969 an extension to the living room was added to the east at the rear of the property. Originally oriented to be approached by a road from Sheppard Avenue East to the north, the house is now accessed from Murray Avenue to the west.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Harris-White house has design value as a representative example of the mid-late 19th-century, one-and-a-half storey Ontario farm house, with its T-shaped plan, steeply pitched gable roofs, verandah and brick patterning over the window heads created by brick headers.

The house has historical value as it contributes to an understanding of the 19th-century development of the Scarborough Township as a farming community with a collection of small villages such as Agincourt. It is associated with the James and Samuel Kennedy a family of farmers who constructed the house in 1888 and with John Harris, farmer, who purchased the Kennedy property in 1912 and lived in the house until 1943. *The house is also valued for its association with William (Bill) A White, O.C. and Vivian White (nee Keeler) who lived at 33 Murray Avenue from 1951 until their deaths in 1981 and 2016 respectively. Bill White was the first Black Canadian to run for public office as a federal candidate and was recognized with numerous awards for his humanitarian service including being appointed an Officer to the Order of Canada. Vivian White received a Queen' Golden Jubilee medal recognizing her contributions as a community volunteer and environmental activist. The White children have continued their parents' legacy through politics, community care, social activism and music and have also received awards in recognition of their work.*

Contextually, the Harris-White house is important in defining and maintaining the late 19th-century character of farmhouses set in 100-200 acre farm properties which typified the developing Scarborough Township and surrounded the 19th-century Agincourt village. Situated on the east side of Murray Avenue, which was laid out as part of the suburban subdivision of the Harris farm lands c. 1950 and surrounded by post-war bungalows and more recent larger-scaled houses, the Harris-White house in its setting,

orientation and design supports the remaining 19th-century character of the township. It is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings.

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Harris White house are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the east side of Murray Avenue
- The setting of the house which includes the line of coniferous trees on the west side of the house
- The scale, form and massing of the one-and-a-half storey house-form building, built on T-shaped plan with intersecting gable roofs and a verandah on its north side
- The materials including the raised stone foundation and the brick cladding
- The brick details including the projecting courses above the stone foundation and the decorative bands above the windows featuring a projecting string course with a line of projecting headers below
- The window details including the double hung sash windows with two-over-two glazing pattern including the storm windows, the projecting sills and the curved window brick window heads of the basement windows
- The arrangement of the windows on the north (originally principal) elevation with its symmetrically placed windows aligned with the centre line of the gable roof at the first and second stories and the adjacent single window at the first floor level
- The arrangement of the windows on the south elevation with the symmetrically placed pair of windows aligned with the centre line of the gable roof at the second floor with the asymmetrically allocated openings at the first floor level including the door, typical two-over-two double hung sash windows and the atypically narrow window. An additional window is the long window tucked under the eaves of the wing
- The arrangement of the pair of double-hung, two-over-two, sash windows aligned with the centre of the gable on the east elevation
- The double-hung, two-over-two, ground-floor sash window on the west elevation towards the north-west corner

The following are not included as heritage attributes:

- The 1946 kitchen and enclosed porch addition
- The 1969 extension on the east side of the house
- The garage