



**TERWILLEGAR HOUSE**  
**3188 GRANDVIEW STREET NORTH**  
**CITY OF OSHAWA**

PREPARED FOR HERITAGE OSHAWA  
BY

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2002

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**3188 GRANDVIEW STREET NORTH**  
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**SUMMARY**

Although fieldstone construction is common for the East Whitby area, this 1857 Georgian style dwelling at 3188 Grandview Street North is evidently the work of a skilled mason. The effort by its original owner, John Alexander, to place large dimension stones at each window and door opening reflects planning and determination to erect an attractive and permanent residence. Although some of the upgrades have replaced the original elements, the overall integrity of the dwelling has been maintained. Also on the property may be the first (possibly 1840) frame dwelling of the Alexanders. One of the barns originated with another Terwillegar property in East Whitby. Owned for nearly a century and a half by only two families, this farmstead is part of East Whitby's early history.

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## **TERWILLEGAR HOUSE**

**3188 GRANDVIEW STREET NORTH  
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**NORTH HALF, LOT 3, CONCESSION 6, EAST WHITBY TOWNSHIP, PART 1, PLAN 40R13199**

### **EARLY LOT HISTORY**

The 100 acres of the north half of Lot 3, Concession 6, East Whitby township, were patented by the Canada Company on September 1, 1832. Essentially a Crown land agency, the Company sold the parcel in April 1840 to John Alexander.

### **JOHN ALEXANDER**

According to the 1851 personal census for East Whitby, John Alexander was a farmer, born in England, and age 44 that year. Also born in England, his wife Hannah was 35. Their children were William, a labourer, 16; Caroline, 14; [Harris Barrislick], 11; [Andrew], 9; Mary J., 7; Sarah, 4; and Charlotte, 2. All the children were born in Upper Canada. Also with them was Hannah, 73, born in England. The 1851 agricultural census placed John on 88 acres (65 cultivated) of Lot 3, Concession 6.

The 1861 census enumerator recorded slightly differing information for the Alexanders. The name of John's spouse was given as Anna Marie, 44, and their faith as Presbyterian. (Her name is believed to have been Hannah Marie.) Andrew, a labourer, 18; Mary Jane, 16; Sarah Ann, 13; and Charlotte, 11, were joined by Helen, 8; [Lillah], 6; Margaret, 3; and John Thomas, one. The Alexanders were still farming the north 88 acres of Lot 3. The value of their farm in 1861 was given at \$8000, including their one and a half storey, stone, single family dwelling. This is the subject building at 3188 Grandview Street North.

In June 1867, John sold an acre of the northeast part of the property to Caroline Prentice. She is believed to be John and Hannah's daughter. In 1871, Caroline was a thirty-three year old widow with several children including James, 11; John 10; [Anna] Maria, 7; Mary Margaret, 5; and

Georgiana, 3. A frame house constructed for her was still standing in 2002. It is locally referred to as the Beathton Post Office.<sup>1</sup>

The Alexander household in 1871 was composed of John, [Anna] Maria, Andrew, Mary Jane, Sarah Ann, Lillah, and Margaret.

### **ARCHIBALD A. TERWILLEGAR**

On November 12, 1872, John M. and Hannah Marie Alexander sold the north half of Lot 3, except one acre, to an East Whitby farmer, Archibald Allan Terwillegar, for \$6500. The Terwillegars are believed to be of Huguenot origin from the area of New Paltz, New York. The American branch of the family uses the spelling variation of Terwilligar. The first to arrive in Upper Canada was Matthew.

*Mathew Trewilliger [sic] (farmer)* - A native of New York State, settled on the south side of the Kingston road on lot 6, first concession, about the year 1816. The exact date could not be ascertained. Mathew Trewilliger's family consisted of Abraham, Charles and James, and two daughters.

The daughters of Abraham Trewilliger, Clarissa and Sarah became noted clairvoyants,<sup>2</sup> which at the time caused quite an excitement amongst the inhabitants of Oshawa and vicinity. Sarah appeared to be the chief expert in these spiritual manifestations at the Trewilliger brick mansion one of the stately old time residences of the early settlers. The Trewilliger Sisters gave free seances to everyone who wished to witness free exhibitions along with quite a party of unbelievers, with the result that while some of the party may have been impressed with startling noises and rappings, others could see nothing in them but something to excite a subdued merriment.

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<sup>1</sup> The Beath family occupied the lot to the northeast.

<sup>2</sup> There is a tradition that one of the sisters was so convinced of the coming of the final day of judgment that she made a pair of wings and jumped from a roof with the expectation of being lifted to heaven. She survived.

Sarah Trewilliger died about the year 1869. And Clarissa became the wife of John Terry who died not many years ago. Archie Trewilliger, a grandson of Mathew Trewilliger is now part owner of the Trewilliger homestead, the old creek residence by the roadside.

Mathew Trewilliger's son Charles [*sic* should read son James] was the contractor who cut and cleared the two rod road north from Harmony to the 7<sup>th</sup> concession in 1831. <sup>3</sup>

The 1851 census recorded an Elizabeth Terwillegar on 44 acres of Lot 4, Concession 6. She is believed to be Elizabeth Stevens, married to James Terwillegar in 1822 (possibly his widow by 1851), and mother to Archibald.<sup>4</sup> Archibald was born on March 8, 1841, and was listed on the census as being of English ancestry. He was the son of James and Elizabeth, and grandson of Matthew.

On the 1861 census, Archibald was listed as a labourer, 20, who was born in Upper Canada and of the Bible Christian faith. That year, he was living with the Alexander Burns family in East Whitby. Elizabeth Terwillegar, 55, was identified as born in the United States, of Christian faith, and living in the township with the Deyman family. There were other Terwillegars also living in the area.

By 1871, Archibald was married to Catherine (Walter). She was born in Ontario on September 23, 1847, and also Bible Christian. Their daughter was Lillie C., aged two. Living with them was a widow, Elizabeth, who was 65 and a seamstress. By then, they were the owners of the 100 acres of Lot 2, Concession 5. They bought Lot 3, Concession 6, from the Alexanders in 1872.

According to the enumerator for the 1881 census, the household that year was composed of "Archie" and Catherine, noted as being born in England, not Ontario. Their children were Lilly Catherine, 11<sup>5</sup>; John James, 9; Albert Allen, 6; and William Walter, 2 (died young). A farm

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<sup>3</sup> Typescript contained in Terwillegar family file. Oshawa Community Archives. The stretch of Harmony Road from Concession 2 to Concession 7 (Columbus Road) is still referred to as "Two Rod Road" for its width of two rods or approximately 33 feet.

<sup>4</sup> The date of death and burial location for James are unknown. Elizabeth is buried at the Union cemetery.

<sup>5</sup> Lilly later married Arthur Drew.

labourer, Francis Dickman, was living with them. By 1881, the Terwillegars are presumed to be living on the subject property, Lot 3, Concession 6.

By 1891, the family was Methodist. "James John" (John James), born April 27, 1871, considered himself a farmer. Another son, Norman L., was born to Archie and Catherine on September 26, 1883. Their house was described as stone, one and a half storeys, with seven rooms.

It was John James who continued the operation of the Terwillegar farm on Lot 3. In 1901, he and his wife, Lydia (born Lydia Pereman in Ontario on June 28, 1872), and their children Roy (June 1897) and Archie F. (November 1900) were in a stone house with ten rooms. They also had three barns or outbuildings on their 87 acres.

By 1901, Archibald, Catherine, Albert, and Norman were living on another farm in the township.<sup>6</sup> Archibald died on March 14, 1914. According to the *Times* newspaper of December 13, 1930, John James died at his home on Kingston Road, near Harmony. He was 59. The *Times* noted that he was born at the Terwillegar homestead near Columbus.

It was Archibald's Will that transferred Lot 3 to his son, Albert Allen Terwillegar, on February 11, 1931. Archibald had left the farm and all "rents and income from the whole estate" to his wife, Catherine. At her death, it was to be sold and divided equally among their four children. Catherine agreed instead to allow the farm to be sold to Albert who had been living there since 1913.<sup>7</sup> Norman (married to Dorothy Dougherty) was in Edmonton, Alberta.

Albert died at the town of Bowmanville on July 19, 1957, leaving his widow, Florence *Gertrude* (Oldfield). In April 1958, the property was sold to their children Willie L., Morley Allan (born 1915), and Muriel Jane Terwillegar (born 1922). Gertrude died in 1971.

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<sup>6</sup> According the Muriel and Morley Terwillegar in 2002, Archibald lived at Harmony and rented the Lot 3 farm to the Allen family and others.

<sup>7</sup> Date of 1913 provided by Morley Terwillegar in 2002.

## **CURRENT OWNERS**

According to the January 21, 1997, issue of *Oshawa This Week*, Willie Leroy Terwillegar was a "lifelong farmer in East Columbus and avid gardener." He died on January 18, 1997, at age 93. He was brother to Morley, Muriel, the late Bert, Bruce, Percy, and Marie. The registered owners of 86.50 acres of Lot 3 in 2002 were Morley and his sister Muriel. The dwelling was occupied by their grand-nephew.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

### **DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

It was John Alexander who acquired the north half of Lot 3 in April 1840 and was living there by the 1851 census enumeration. Now butted to the west facade of the rear extension of the existing stone house is a one storey (with a loft), frame building that may have served as their first house. The Terwillegars relocated the building several times for use as a shed.

The date 1857 is scored prominently into a stone of the east facade of the existing dwelling. The Alexander house was described in 1861 as a one and a half storey, stone, single family dwelling, making 1857 the likely date of construction (or completion).

### **STYLE AND FORM**

This is a storey and a half, Georgian style dwelling. Georgian is considered the traditional style of Upper Canada and representative of the dwellings of its earliest settlers. The prominent facade of this simple example has three bays (two windows and a door) and faces south. It has a storey and a half, north (rear) extension that creates the T-plan typical of the first half of the nineteenth century. The rear extension is original and served as the kitchen wing, reducing the risk of fire in the main dwelling. There was no access between the second level of the dwelling and the extension, until a passage was cut through the stone wall by Morley Terwillegar. A modern frame structure extends the structure farther north, linking to the garage.

### **FOUNDATION**

The foundation is stone and incorporates several large dimension slabs at grade level.



## **MASONRY**

The house and extension are constructed of random coursed, split fieldstone. The mason paid particular attention to the placement of large dimension stones as lintels or heads over each door and window opening. Marks from the tool used to break apart these large stones are evident. The mortar is tooled and slightly raised, with some sections repointed.

## **ROOF**

The roof of the main dwelling is a medium pitched gable with returned eaves and moulded soffit. The roof of the extension matches the main dwelling. The original wood shingle cladding was replaced about thirty years ago with simulated shingle aluminum roofing. The gable dormers facing east and south were added by Morley Terwillegar in the 1960s.

## **CHIMNEYS**

The pair of brick chimney stacks at the west and east ends of the main dwelling service two existing fireplaces. There is a third stack rising from the north end of the extension. All have been rebuilt.

## **WINDOW OPENINGS**

The east and west gable ends of the main dwelling have two upper and two lower window openings, with the upper slightly smaller in overall dimension. There is no fenestration (window openings) in the upper portion of the front facade.

The rear extension has a full sized window opening on the east, ground level. On the west of the extension, there is a half sized opening believed to be original. The north gable of the extension has two second level window openings. The ground level is obscured by a recent addition.

All the window sashes, frames, and sills have been replaced with modern materials. The style of the replacements maintains the appearance of the original double hung sashes with 6x6 panes.

## **VERANDAH**

A verandah on the east facade of the rear extension is slightly wider than the difference in the widths of the main house and extension. It extends the full length of the rear section. The posts and roof have been altered. There is an entrance door within the verandah on the east side. A wood nailing block on the west side of the rear extension indicates the former location of a second verandah.

## **DOORCASE**

The existing doorcase is a Classical design in keeping with the Georgian style of the dwelling. There are no sidelights or a transom. Wood pilasters rise on each side to what should be a wide, moulded cornice or entablature (now missing). The door placement is slightly recessed by a wide frame with moulded panels. An aluminum storm door has been installed.

## **OUTBUILDINGS**

To the north of the house, there is a large barn with a yard. Attached to the south end of the barn is a second barn that was relocated by Morley Terwillegar from a Terwillegar farm at Harmony.

## **SETTING**

According to Morley Terwillegar, there was a second entrance to the property from just north of the barn. It and the existing driveway from the east were lined with spruce trees. The driveway originally curved toward the south end of the house. The Evert Terwilliger homestead erected in 1738 at Gardiner, New York, has locust trees as windbreaks at the dwelling site. Locust trees are planted in a similar manner at the subject property. Positioned on the high point of the lot, the view from the dwelling sweeps southwest to a distant downtown Toronto and the CN tower.

## **INTERIOR**

Some interior elements survive in their original condition. A centre hall plan, it has the typical layout of a left side parlour with a rear slip bedroom, and right side dining or sitting room, both with fireplace hearths. The panelled doors, panelled window embrasures, and trim have the paint and dark varnish finish typical of the mid nineteenth century.

## **CONDITION**

The Terwillegar family have maintained the historic integrity of the exterior of this dwelling by careful maintenance and upgrades. Although the interior has been renovated, some original elements survive.

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

Although fieldstone construction is common for the East Whitby area, this 1857 Georgian style dwelling at 3188 Grandview Street North is evidently the work of a skilled mason. The effort by its original owner, John Alexander, to place large dimension stones at each window and door opening reflects planning and determination to erect an attractive and permanent residence. Although some of the upgrades have replaced the original elements, the overall integrity of the dwelling has been maintained. Also on the property may be the first (possibly 1840) frame dwelling of the Alexanders. One of the barns originated with another Terwillegar property in East Whitby. Owned for nearly a century and a half by only two families, this farmstead is part of East Whitby's early history.

## APPENDIX

Excerpt of 1877 J.H. Beers & Co. map of East Whitby townships

### Sources

### Photographs May 2002

- 1 South facade
- 2 South facade, doorcase
- 3 South facade, doorcase
- 4 South and west facades
- 5 West facade
- 6 West facade, gable detail
- 7 West facade, rear extension detail
- 8 West facade, joint at main house and extension
- 9 West side, possibly 1840 frame dwelling south facade
- 10 North and east facades
- 11 East facade
- 12 Date stone, east facade
- 13 Eaves detail, main house, east facade
- 14 Windows detail, main house, east facade
- 15 East and south facades
- 16 East and south facades
- 17 East yard
- 18 Looking south
- 19 Looking southeast from barn yard at north
- 20 Looking southwest from barn yard at north
- 21 Looking northeast from rear of house
- 22 West side of barn
- 23 Local and Texan friends
- 24 Looking west from road
- 25 Looking west from road











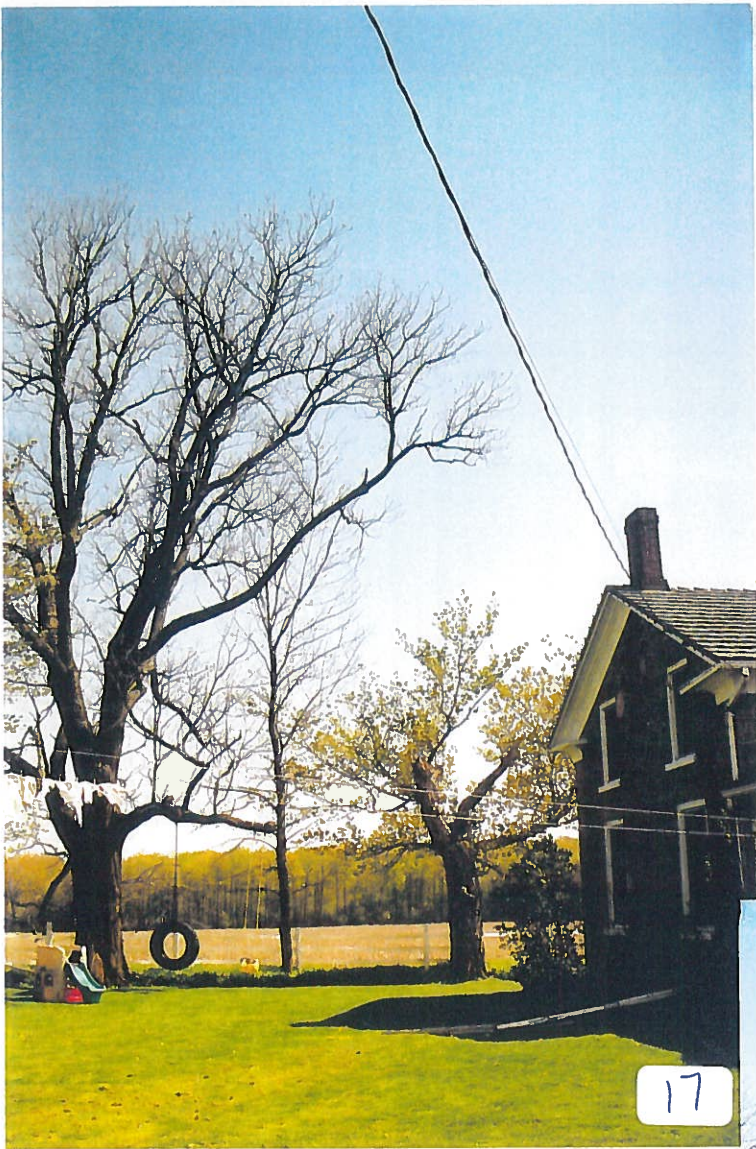












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## SOURCES

Conveyances Abstract and related documents. *Durham Land Registrar's Office*

East Whitby census, 1851 to 1901. *Barrie Public Library*

Terwillegar Family Files. *Oshawa Community Archives*

Interview with Morley and Muriel Terwillegar, May 2002

Beers, J.H. & Co. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of County of Ontario, Ont.* Toronto: 1877.