

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

Whereas the Town Historian has identified up to 20 Virgil properties (Appendix I) that should be reviewed for potential inclusion on the Municipal Register.

And whereas the current Municipal Register lists 5 of the 20 listed properties being: 1125 Four Mile Creek Road (Ferry-Bessey House), 1126 Four Mile Creek Road (James Clement House), 421 Hunter Road (Locust Grove), 1823 Niagara Stone Road (Belfry Cottage), and 846 Niagara Stone Road (Griffin House).

And whereas the Town Historian's proposed list was intended to include all appropriate houses in Virgil (excluding cemeteries, churches, and schools - the most appropriate of which are on the Register) that should be on the Register.

And whereas this Virgil list of 20 houses was created to raise awareness, that several existing Virgil houses have not been considered as of interest, particularly in the former "Lawrenceville" sector of Niagara Stone Road (between the cross roads of Niagara Stone Road & Four Mile Creek Road and Field Road).

And whereas these are probably the most critical inclusions that should be reviewed considering the possible near-term rehabilitation plans for the Virgil transportation corridor; the most significant of all is possibly George Lawrence's 1818 House (the former 'Pie Plate' and the oldest house in the downtown Virgil urban core) at 1516 Niagara Stone Road.

Therefore, the Municipal Heritage Committee be requested to review the list and offer final recommendations to Council.

And it would be helpful to focus the review first on any properties that may be impacted by changes to the Transportation Corridor (Niagara Stone Road) as a pre-condition before final plans of the potential Transportation construction works are approved.

Historic Properties of Virgil

1st Draft – 23 July 2021

Some of the older houses in the village were rebuilt in the first decade after the War of 1812. However, there are other houses built by locals in the late 19th century that deserve mention. The list of 20 existing Virgil houses in this document are:

Locust Grove, 421 Hunter Road
Corus House, 969 East & West Line
Stewart House, 1005 East & West Line
Servos-Wagg House, 401 East & West Line
Gordon Hunter - Dick House, Victoria Lane (off East & West Line)
Belfry Cottage, 1823 Niagara Stone Road
George Lawrence House, 1516 Niagara Stone Road
William Stevens House & Hutchison Store, 1503 Niagara Stone Road
Gibson-Penner House, 1502 Niagara Stone Road
Bartlett House of Antiques, 1490 Niagara Stone Road
Rogers' Farmhouse, 1458 Niagara Stone Road
Griffin House, 846 Niagara Stone Road
Ferry-Bessey House, 1125 Four Mile Creek Road
James Clement House, 1126 Four Mile Creek Road
The Clement - Kozicki House, 1408 Four Mile Creek Road
Joseph Clement House, 1526 Four Mile Creek Road
Boice-Cushman House, 1540 Concession 6
Sporbeck-Cairns House, 551 Line 1 Road (at Henry St.)
Gibson-Dick House, 749 Line 1 Road (Plum Street)
Harrison-Greaves House, 1080 Line 3 Road

Excerpted from David F. Hemmings, "The Cross Roads" book published by Bygones Publishing in 2015.

Locust Grove, 421 Hunter Road

The residence at "Locust Grove", initially the home of George Ball (1765-1854), his wife Catherine Overholt (1786-1845) and their 12 children, was a part of 1,000 local acres granted to George's father, Captain Johann Jacob Ball (1733-1810), and his three brothers, Peter, Jacob and John. George's daughter, Barbara Matilda Ball Roe (1821-1911), who married Rev. Peter Roe (1820-1895), provided a glimpse of this house and the era in which it was rebuilt:

Built about 1820, the woodwork inside - stairs and balusters, wainscot and panels on each side of the large fireplace, with fluting on the mantel - was mostly of black walnut. The bricks of the building were made on the place, in the sheep's meadows. Metal to cover the roof was brought from Montreal. There was a large-drawing room, both upstairs and downstairs. Eleven children were brought up here. For dinner, at one time, there were sixty peach dumplings. A black servant made Johnny cake, which required sixty-four eggs. Most of the black servants had been slaves. Everything full and plenty - tubs of sausages, barrels of corned beef, etc.

Jens Ramputh, a recent owner, has described Locust Grove more definitively:

Originally built in 1784 on a 1,200 acre estate granted by the British Crown to George Ball, one of the original settlers of Upper Canada. The House was burned down by the American forces on December 10, 1813 during the War of 1812, and rebuilt on the same site in 1820. The present structure was rebuilt with six courses of brick 18 inches thick and using 88,000 clay bricks which were fired on the property in 1820. The house had 2 additional fires, one in 1904 and one in 1934. A second fire destroyed the roof and subsequently the Georgian style roof and Doric columns were removed and the present roof put in its place. The House was used until 1985 by the Virgil Bible School and Eden Christian College - first as a Schoolhouse and later as a student Dormitory for 40 students.



Locust Grove in 1890s, 421 Hunter Road
(Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society & Jens Ramputh)

The House was abandoned for 15 years before being purchased by the current owner, who is in the process of restoring the grand house to its original splendor. This work is being largely completed in 2014. The new interior of the house is Baroque in style, from the mid 1800s. The magnificence of the house is being reincarnated with the addition of some sumptuous refurbishments. Elaborate cornices, paintings and chandeliers now adorn the ceilings, the floors

are beautifully decorated with wood inlays, the new en-suite bathroom walls are designed in the style of the renovated house, a new double-decker portico mirrors the original Ball House, and the plaster of the exterior bricks has been stripped and the red bricks repointed. All this has been achieved by Jens Ramputh himself.

The Balls, originally buried in their own cemetery on the present-day Hunter property just northeast of their two ponds, were exhumed and moved to the northeast corner of St. Mark's Cemetery in Niagara-on-the-Lake about 60 years ago.



Locust Grove, roadside view today, with original brick exposed.
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Corus House, 969 East & West Line

- Cassel (Casper) Corus (1744-1835), a Dutchman immigrant from Heerlen, built this house in 1809. This house, hidden behind trees at the end of a narrow farm path, missed the burning of December 1813. It was a gathering point for Lincoln Militia troops in the War of 1812. A pay waggon was also lost here, without trace. It is reasoned that the house was built about the time of Cassel Corus' marriage to Maria Casselman (1788-1851), the daughter of Johannes and Margrith Casselman. They had at least two children in this house, Maria (1810-1853) who married Luke Lawrence (1806-1888), and Henry (1811-1854) who married Jane Cudney. Today the house is used for migrant farm workers.



Corus House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Stewart House, 1005 East & West Line

This house is a particularly fine example of Gothic Revival farmhouse architecture, built in c. 1875 by William Stewart (1818-1894). The property was originally granted by the Crown to John Bellinger in 1803. Other owners of the property, if not residents,



Stewart House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

include Alexander Stewart, John Lowe, George Miller, Robert Ball and Victor Dyck. There are several detached barns, garages and miscellaneous sheds on the property, which is only to be expected on a relatively large farm, as well as one other single detached residence built in 1947.

Servos-Wagg House, 401 East & West Line

Alexander Servos (1831-1910) inherited Lot 193 upon the death of his father Col. Daniel Kerr Servos (1792-1857); he was Col. Servos' second surviving son. Alexander, a miller and Justice of the Peace, married Margaret Helen Ball (1831-1885). The house is in three parts, the oldest being closest to the East & West Line, onto which road the house originally fronted. This early structure was probably built in the 1890s after Alexander's wife had died. In the 20th century, the house was extended twice, first for the Wagg farm employees and secondly for the Pospiech family. It now fronts on Wagg Road. Just downstream on the creek nearby was the Wagg Mill, that was formerly a Servos Mill.



Servos-Wagg House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Gordon Hunter - Dick House, Victoria Lane (off East & West Line)

Built on the west bank of Four Mile Creek on part of a 100-acre lot granted by the Crown to retiring Butler's Rangers Sergeant John Young in 6 May 1796, this house has had many additions over the years, although the original peg beams in bark are still visible in the basement. The original house may have been moved during the early years from one part of Young's property to another. Logs were used at the corners of the house and axe-hewn to flatten them; therefore, the corners of the rooms do not come to a point.

John Young (1756-1808) was a United Empire Loyalist who served in Captain John MacKinnon's Company for six years; he came from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Believed to be the son of John Jung Sr. and Ann Turen, John Young lived on Lots 155, 156 and 117 near Four Mile Creek in Lawrenceville. He was a farmer on this land in 1795. He was married first to Anne McQueen, who died in 1794 leaving two daughters (Mary and Ann), and then to Elizabeth Heigler, by whom he had two daughters and two sons. As each of Capt. Young's children were born he added a bedroom to the house; consequently each floor in the house is at a different level. The youngest was Captain John Young (1804-1873) who married Jane Robertson (1806-aft 1851) by whom he had five daughters and two sons.

John Young's descendants owned and farmed the land until 1910, when it was purchased by the Niagara Land & Fruit Company, who in turn sold it to William Howard Hunter (b. 1865) on behalf of his son, Gordon (b. 1898) who moved into the house in 1920 and established Cloverland Farms. In 1982 David and Ella Dick purchased the property.

During some remodelling Mrs. Mary C. Hunter (b. 1861) found some religious tracts and newspapers with accounts of the U.S. Civil War behind some wallpaper she was removing. Jack Hunter (b. 1899) also recalls replacing some wood shingles on the house and finding two musket balls embedded in the rafters. The upper part of the carriage shed still had spinning wheels in the 1960s, and apple bees and quilting bees were commonplace in the shed.



Hunter-Dick House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Belfry Cottage, 1823 Niagara Stone Road

Belfry Cottage is located between Concession 4 Road and East & West Line in Virgil. The two-storey Victorian residence dates back to 1870, and has an ell shape plan and a brick exterior. A small wrap around verandah with attractive treillage adorns the front half of the building. The windows are double hung with one-over-one pane, and radiating arched voussoir brickwork highlights their opening. The integrity of the Gothic Revival house has undergone only marginal changes with the newer addition in the rear. The Crown granted 100 acres, lot 70 to Henry Corus in June 1794. Subsequent owners of the property have included George Varey, William Corus, Ian Corus, James Hiscott, James Crouch, Elijah Hiscott and Eli Varey. The house includes an original basement and an old pantry.

This one-acre property includes a barn to the north of the house; the barn contained the Nothing New Antiques store until it was closed in 2012.



Belfry Cottage, 1823 Niagara Stone Road
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)



Belfry Cottage and Nothing New Antique Store
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

George Lawrence House, 1516 Niagara Stone Road

George Lawrence rebuilt this house in 1818, shortly after the prior building had been burned to the ground on the evening of 10 December 1813 – along with all the other building in the small village of the Cross Roads. It now stands as one of the oldest and most significant in Lawrenceville, now Virgil. Lawrence died in 1848 and his family continued to live in the house. The Lawrence House was the only residence north of the Methodist chapel on the west side of Niagara Stone Road in earlier times. When Claribel Niven Brooker's father, Robert Nelson Niven (1852-1931) came to live in Virgil in about 1885, he renovated the house before occupying it. The house had been abandoned for some time and was in quite a rundown condition. He retained the original wide plank wood floors and a fieldstone foundation. In the mid twentieth century this house was owned by Ms. Marjorie Brooker. Today the Lawrence House has been transformed into a successful business, The Pie Plate Bakery & Café, which also includes delightful accommodation upstairs, is owned by Ruth Anne (Fast) Schreifer.



The Lawrence House, 1516 Niagara Stone Road
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

William Stevens House & Hutchison Store, 1503 Niagara Stone Road

This house and store was built by Nelson William Stevens (1871-1953) in c.1900. He built a grocery store near the curb side with Niagara Stone Road, and the two-storey frame house in the rear.



William Stevens House & Hutchison Store
(Courtesy: DelVecchio Family)

While he and his wife Maggie E.D. Bissell (1882-1941) had a son and four daughters in the first decade of the new century, William ran his grocery store. In 1921 he decided to move away from Virgil and the property was purchased by Lawrence L. Hutchison (1877-1922) and his wife Florence V. Pendergast (1881-1971). Originally intended to be a butcher shop, the store included a meat locker, butcher's block, and meat and cheese counter; however, Lawrence died suddenly the following year at age 45, and his wife was left to run the store. Mrs. Hutchison soon changed the store to a grocery and candy shop, and retained it during the rapid expansion of Virgil in the 1930s and 1940s. Every child in Virgil remembers the chocolate bars and other candy available as a treat at Mrs. Hutchison's store. When Walter Salek closed his barber shop across the street and Mrs. Hutchison was elderly, Angelo DelVecchio purchased the store in 1963. His barber shop has become a municipality-wide tradition for many men in the area and he has now been in business for more than 50 years. When he started, haircuts cost 25 cents; today Angelo's Barber Shop charges a modest \$10.00. Angelo and Angela, his wife, made Virgil their home and he raised a family in the village.

Gibson-Penner House, 1502 Niagara Stone Road

The Gibson-Penner House originally stood near the sidewalk on the west side of Niagara Stone Road (where the Lawrenceville Restaurant is today). It was next to the cabinetry shop also owned by Hamilton Gibson (1868-1954). In 1948 the home was acquired by Jacob Peter (Jake) Penner (1911-1981) and his wife, Kay Bergmann. It was Jake who subsequently moved the house back to its present position behind the Penner (later Lawrenceville) Restaurant in 1954, and made it accessible from Four Mile Creek Road. Upstairs in this house was an extensively-used large hall with a diamond shaped pattern on the floor. In the early days, this hall was reached by outside stairs so that Anglicans could hold their services here before St. John's church was built in 1896. Virgil's Orange Order Lodge also used to meet here. Jake Penner then built the restaurant on Niagara Stone Road; initially it sold hamburgers, etc., but later offered full meals. On the curbside at the north end of the building was a window for selling soft ice cream in the evenings. In 1979 the property - house and restaurant - were sold to the Anastacio family. The restaurant remains and the house is now an inn.



Gibson-Penner House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Bartlett House of Antiques, 1490 Niagara Stone Road

This building was originally two houses. In the 1880s Lewis Thomas Phillips (1853-1950), a blacksmith, moved into his house on the southwest corner of the Cross Roads. His daughter, Edna Jane Gwenda (born 1886) married into the Condlin family, but was widowed early. She

then moved into the house and lived there for many years; in later life she acquired a Model T automobile with a rumble seat. During this period, Dick Wilson's house was sold to Frank Henry Hiebert (1884-1960) and his wife Katharina Goertzen (1894-1956) who lived there from 1950 to 1961; they sold to Wilbert Dick. Later, Edna Condlin sold the Phillips house to Gerald Marcynuk and his wife, who opened the Dew Drop Inn in the late 1960s. Within a few years, Gerald Marcynuk also acquired the Wilson house next door from Wilbert Dick and expanded the Dew Drop Inn with a covered connecting section. After 18 years the Marcynuks sold the expanded Inn to Dana Smith and Dieter Aehrens from Toronto. Their plan for adding a kitchen on the west side of the house was approved by the Town and they built the extension; however, the Town later reneged on its decision because the extension was not properly dimensioned. The owners decided the compliance investment would be too great and left town. As a result the Lord Mayor Wilbert Dick acquired the property at a distress sale price in foreclosure. He then moved the Gibson barn from across the street to be located to the west of the Phillips' house and changed the name of the premises to the Homestead restaurant and inn. The entire premises was then sold to Tom and Joanne Quinn as a restaurant and inn in the structure that still survives today as an antique shop. To expand his parking lot, Quinn demolished the historic Baptist Chapel one weekend without permission. For this act of vandalism to a Virgil heritage property, the Town saw fit to only fine him one hundred dollars. The action shocked many of the village residents, who now have few remaining heritage structures to treasure.



Bartlett House of Antiques
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)



The southwest corner of Four Mile Creek Road and Niagara Stone Road in 1921. Braving the storm are (L→R) Myrtle Haywood, Irene Stevens, Evelyn Gibson Brown, Harry Gibson and, on the right, Lewis Phillips who is standing in front of his blacksmith shop

(Source: A. James Rennie, *Niagara Township*, 1967, p. 44)

Rogers' Farmhouse, 1458 Niagara Stone Road

This was originally Alexander (Allie) Rogers (1882-1944) farmhouse for his farm which extended from Line 1 to Line 2 on the west side of Four Mile Creek. Today the house stands behind trees at 1458 Niagara Stone Road. It was sold to Henry Andres (1926-2005), whose father Henry J. Andres (1894-1974) lived in the house. The farm was ultimately sold for urban development; hence the names Henry Street and Andres Street. Henry Andres sold the farmhouse to the present owner in 2003.



Allie Rogers' Farmhouse
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Griffin House, 846 Niagara Stone Road

This house was probably built by Israel Griffin to serve as his farmhouse c. 1857, and contains a number of Gothic Revival details. A two-storey residence, it sits on a small lot very close to Niagara Stone Road (Highway 55) surrounded by, but sectioned from, surrounding farmland. It is possible to trace this property back to 1831, in which year John Martindale sold it to John Wilson. Unfortunately, no Crown Patent record exists for Lot 170, but the property was owned by Andrew Heron during the War of 1812. Later owners of the property, and the surrounding farm, include Charles Wilson, Thomas and Albert Bate, Herman, Rebecca and John Hostetter, John Clement, Frederick, Lawrence and Ida, and Lawrence (Jr.) and Isobel Vanderlip.



Griffin House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Ferry-Bessey House, 1125 Four Mile Creek Road

The three sons of Ludovicus (Lewis) Cobes Clement (1725-1781) were each involved in the Indian Department during the American Revolutionary War - Lt. Joseph Clement (1750-1812), Lt. John Putnam Clement (1759-1845) and Lt. James Clement (1764-1813). After they were granted their Niagara Township lands in the late 1790s, they either traded their properties between them or simply sold some of the inconvenient lots. The Clement brothers kept large tracts of land within their family; however, only a few lots had a home built on them. The property on which this house was subsequently built can be traced back to a Crown Patent granted to Lieutenant James Clement (1764-1813) in 1798. It passed to his son, John Putnam Clement (1792-1872), who bequeathed it to his grandson, John F. Lambert (1845-1881); he died intestate and various siblings vied for the property - Lewis & Rebecca Lambert, James & Jane Upper, John V. & Annie Durham, Andrew & Fanny Ferry, etc. As a result, the lands and premises were seized. After much wrangling, Andrew & Fanny Ferry acquired the east side of Four Mile Creek Road and James & Jane Upper got the west side. In c.1890 Andrew Ferry built the house from scratch, calling it the "Half-Way House" and making it an inn equidistant from Virgil and St. David's. Later, the house became a two-storey residence, which sits on a 40-acre farm. It is now a well-preserved Gothic Revival brick farmhouse, with a large board-and-batten barn



Clement-Bessey House - aerial view
(Courtesy: Wolfgang Woerthle)

(built c. 1880s) adjacent to it close to the road. Other previous owners of the property include Henry & Agnes Taylor, Elias & Annie Bessey, Arthur & Hilah Bessey, Nicholas & Annie Trichuk and Heinrich Weckesser.



Clement-Bessey House facing Four Mile Creek Road
(Courtesy: Lydia Nimchuk & Wolfgang Woerthle)

James Clement House, 1126 Four Mile Creek Road

James Clement (1764-1813) built this frame house in 1805. This is one of the very few houses to have survived the burning of Niagara and Virgil by the Americans in December 1813. It remained without being burned through the 1812 War because James Clement, an Officer in the Lincoln Militia, had died in March 1813 and his wife, Catharina Crysler (1770-1813) had just died at childbirth in July 1813, leaving six children under 16 and a baby only in the house -- and giving those working for the Americans reason to pass it by on their burning rampage through Niagara Township in December 1813.



James Clement House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

The Clement - Kozicki House, 1408 Four Mile Creek Road

Built on Lot 110, originally 100 acres granted by the Crown to James Thomas in February 1807 for services rendered, about a mile southeast of Virgil on the banks of Four Mile Creek is a house that was built in 1840, to replace the original one destroyed by fire. Aaron Allen and his wife Mary, who was the granddaughter of James Thomas, had purchased the property and earlier house for 5 shillings in April 1823. In February 1852, John Putnam Clement (1792-1872) acquired the 100-acre property for £587.10s.0d.

The larger Clement family were United Empire Loyalists and had received 1800 acres of land in Crown grants along Four Mile Creek in the late 1790s. The property designated Lot 110 was additional to these grants. Over the next 84 years, through 1936, the Lot and house passed to succeeding generations of the Clement family - Frederick M. (1816-1886), John Putnam (1839-1918), and Norton H. (1886-1964). In July 1936, 64 acres of Lot 110 were purchase by Antoni and Honorata Kozicki, whose family have continued to live on the property to the present day.



Clement-Kozicki House in late 1800s
(Courtesy: Margaret Kozicki)



Frederick Moore Clement (1884-1974) & his father, John Putnam Clement
(Source: Dr. F.M. Clement, *My Thoughts were on the Land*, 1969)



Clement-Kozicki House today
(Courtesy: Margaret Kozicki)

The house passed in succession to Norton Hedley Clement (1886-1964), who had one son by Minnie Cathryne Stewart (1888-1920) and four sons and three daughters by Annie Violet McPhee (1902-1983). Norton sold 64 acres of Lot 110 to Antoni Kozicki and his wife Honorata Beranovsky (Polish immigrants from Ukraine) in July 1936, and the property is still in the Kozicki family.

The house was substantially renovated to today's appearance in 1945; verandas were removed, a basement with built into the back of the house, and bay windows renovated. The fireplace was restored to its original place in the living room. The walnut tree standing in the front of the house was planted by Norton Clement in 1892.

Joseph Clement House, 1526 Four Mile Creek Road

This is a two-storey residence, which sits close to the road on a 10-acre parcel of farmland. A beautiful example of the vernacular Gothic Revival style, the farmhouse was built in c. 1850, presumably by Joseph Clement Sr. (1790-1867). The property can be traced back to a Crown Patent granted to one Barnabus Cain in 1796, but there is no mention of the property in the records for nearly sixty years after this event, by which time the Clement family were already the owners of the property, and perhaps even living in the present house. Joseph Sr. passed the land to Joseph Jr. (1827-1917) upon his death, and Joseph Jr. continued to control the entire property until 1906. He mortgaged it with Eupharia Haynes in 1891, but seems to have cleared this. Fred McCusker purchased at least part of the property at that time, which may have become 1536 Four Mile Creek, in time. The rest of the property fell to Ella Louise Clement (1879-1938) in 1918, after Joseph Jr.'s widow, her mother, passed away. Ella Louise sold part of the land to Frank Walker in 1931, and the rest to George Cox in 1933. The house appears to

have gone with the Cox portion, and it was passed to his widow and son (Albert Cox) in 1935, who sold it to James Emmett. Emmett sold to Isaak Wazniuk in 1944.



Joseph Clement House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Boice-Cushman House, 1540 Concession 6

John Boice (formerly Johannes Buys; 1745-c.1800) was granted Lots 157 and 158 (total 200 acres) in January 1794 for his services in the Butler's Rangers. By February 1821, Lot 158 had been inherited by John Boice's youngest son, Jacob (1788- c. 1811) and subsequently sold by his widow, Catherine Risenburg Boice (1788-c. 1861), to James Cushman Sr. In February 1832, James partitioned off 25 acres in the northeast quadrant of the lot and sold it to his son, Joshua Ferris Cushman (1805-1842) for £60.0s.0d. After his father died, Joshua worked the 100 acres until 1839 when he retired and sold the north 50 acres of land on Lot 158 to his two sons, James (1825-1886) and Jonathan Francis. The south 50 acres was sold to David Cooper (1801-1890).



Boice-Cushman House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

By 1862, the Cushmans had retained the southern half of the northern 50 acres of Lot 158, selling the other 25 acres to William Cooper (1829-1896), David Cooper's eldest son. Within 10 years James Cushman Jr. had sold their 25-acre land to Frederick M. Colby (1835-1924), who planted a peach orchard, which was still flourishing in 1876, without evidence of a house on this parcel of land. The house at 1540 Concession 6 (south of Line 1) was probably built in about 1880. the original brick building features radiating arched voussoir trim over the windows. Today it is a private residence and the farmland has been sold off.

Sporbeck-Cairns House, 551 Line 1 Road (at Henry St.)

This house is located on Lot 118 at the southeast corner of Line 1 Road and Henry Street. Dating back to c.1860, the house is believed to have been built by John Sporbeck, the original grantee of the 100-acre lot and subsequently the owner of the property for 54 years. About 19 acres of Sporbeck's land was sold to George Cairns in May 1857; Cairns subsequently purchased the remaining 78 acres in October 1862. The house was apparently sold with the latter conveyance at the high price of \$2,800. It is a two-storey wood frame house with stucco exterior; the main entrance is decorated with quoins and has a radiating arched voussoir. While some alterations have been made, the dwelling still retains its character, which was largely inspired by Gothic Revival architecture. Later owners have included John Cairns, Theodore Cairns, Mary O'Horo, Alexander



Sporbeck-Cairns House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Rogers, Henry Andres, John and Jacob Dueck, Abram Dueck and Henry Dueck. The house came on the market in 2010 for \$1.1 million.

Gibson-Dick House, 749 Line 1 Road (Plum Street)

This house was built around 1900, possibly by George A. Gibson for his mother, Alice Minerva (Thompson) Gibson (1851-1934) after she was widowed in 1899. She was the grandmother of Evelyn Ann (Gibson) Brown (1906-1989). Later, the house was occupied by the Hipwell family. In those days there was no bathroom in the house, and the house had a wood stove and a dirt basement. Its architecture was similar to a few other houses in Virgil, some of which have since been demolished.

Soon after Gerhard (George) Klaus Dick (1898-1987) and his wife Barbara A. Neufeld (1901-1978) moved to Virgil from New Hamburg in 1947, they acquired the property and it has now been in the Dick family for almost 70 years. George was a carpenter who made windows; he also worked for Conroy in St. Catharines. The large barn at the rear of the house demonstrates his handiwork. In 1947 it was leaning awkwardly and appeared unstable. George stripped it down to the frame, corrected the subsidence, replaced the boards horizontally and added the windows and doors.



Gibson-Dick House and Barn
(Courtesy: Olga Dick & Author's Collection)

Harrison-Greaves House, 1080 Line 3 Road

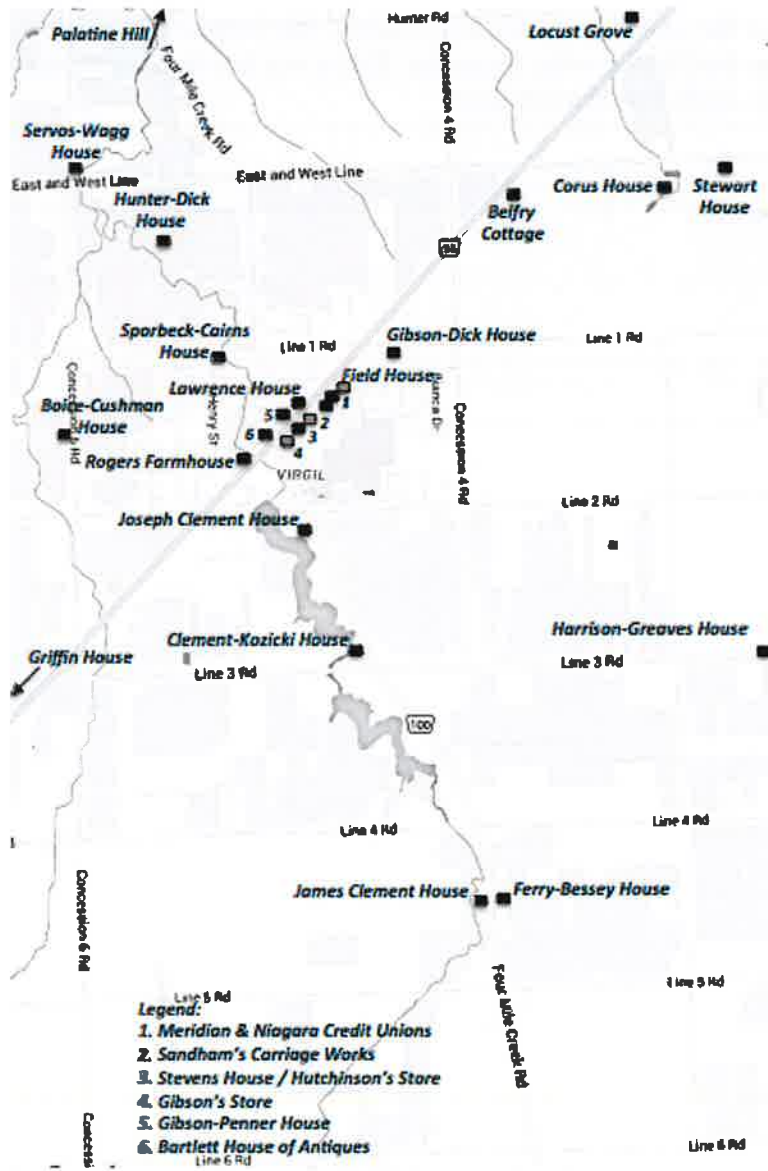
This two-storey residence sits on a small lot near the farm. The house was likely built by William Harrison soon after he purchased the farm in 1888, though it may date to a time later in his tenure, perhaps the turn of the century. He sold to Alexander Muir in 1902. The property on Lot 64 was originally granted to John McFarland (of McFarland House on the Parkway) in December 1798. James McFarland (John's grandson) sold to John Carroll in 1856. Other owners of the house include Samuel Lynn,



Harrison-Greaves House
(Courtesy: Author's Collection)

Henry Joseph, John Wallis, Thomas Simmonds, James French and Alexander Gunn. As far as the surviving records are able to reveal, these men owned and farmed the land, but lived elsewhere. After Muir sold to Fred Hawarth in 1922, the land passed to the Agricultural

Development Board, and the Commissioner of Agricultural Loans. It was then sold to William Greaves in 1938, and the Greaves family have owned the property ever since. William died in 1981, and passed the land to his wife, Florence. There is a low brick wall at certain points around the property, with low brick pillars.



Locations of Old Houses in Virgil
(superimposed on Google map)