

744356 Road 74, Zorra



2022 north elevation

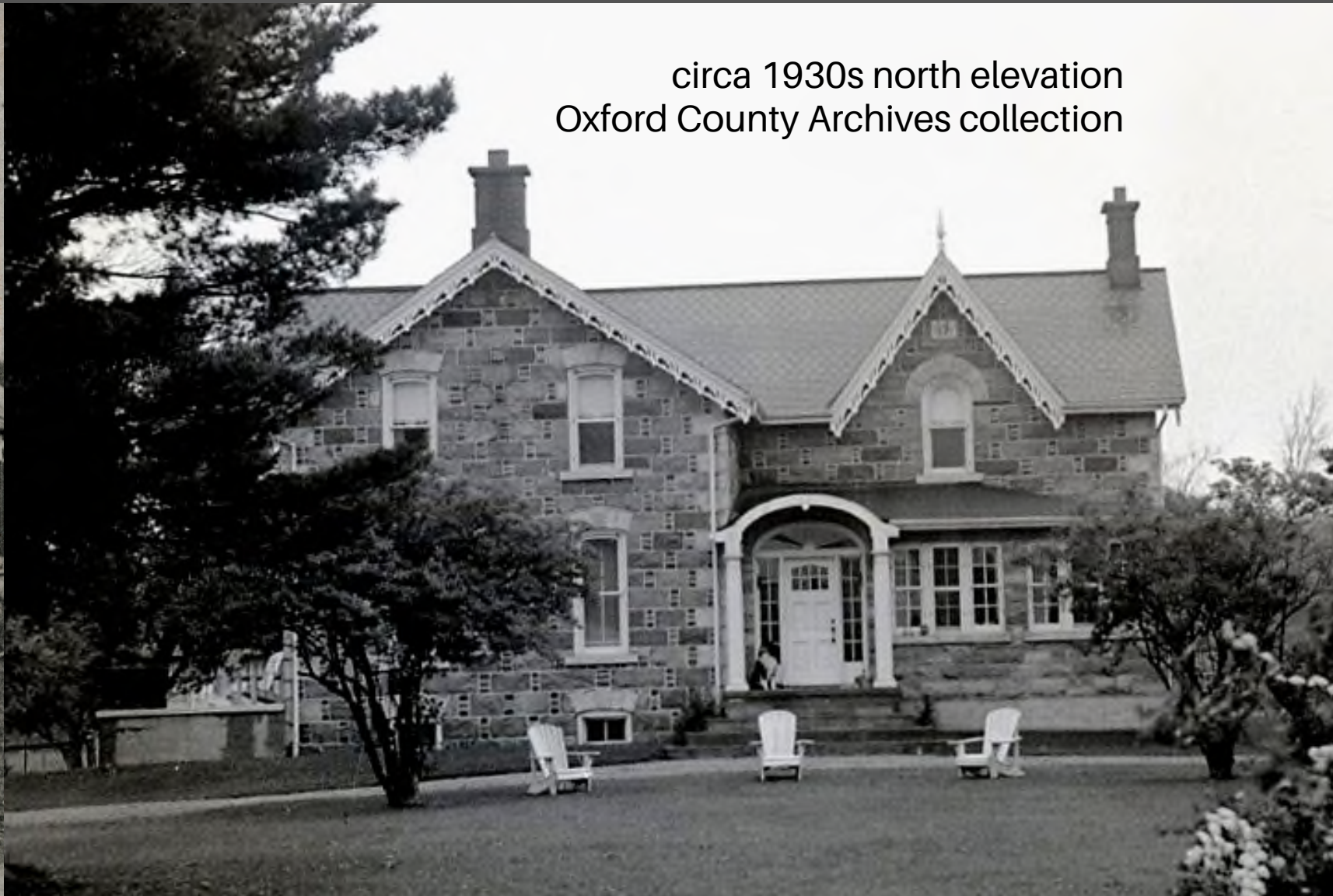
Location: Lot 5 West,
Concession 7,
West Zorra
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Gothic Revival
Notable features:
Aberdeen Bond
Construction date:
1891
Original owner:
Alexander Sutherland,
1844-1925
Stone Mason: John
Thompson Crellin,
1837-1922

744356 Road 74, Zorra

1890s north elevation
Alexander & Mary Sutherland



circa 1930s north elevation
Oxford County Archives collection



Robert Sutherland (1802-1890), who bought the west half of Lot 5 in 1833, came to Canada from Sutherlandshire, Scotland. He and his wife, Ann Campbell (1803-1882) had nine children: Betsy (1833-1903), Anne (1835-1907), Donald (1836-1909), Angus (1838-1916), John (1842-1931), Robert (1844-1917), Alexander (1844-1925), Margaret (1848-1929) & William (1868-Deceased). The only child of Robert and Ann to wed was Alexander, who married Margaret McLeod (1858-1901) in 1879. Alexander took ownership of this farm in 1888, and in 1891 had John Thompson Crellin (1837-1922) build a stone house. The Sutherlands christened their home 'Dunrobin', after the castle in Scotland. The stone house remained in the Sutherland family until 1945.

744356 Road 74, Zorra

The Alexander Sutherland Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival was built in 1891 by stonemason, John Thompson Crellin, in his distinctive Aberdeen Bond masonry style. It is a mirror image of the Lawrence stone house at 205 Allen Street, in Thamesford, constructed by Crellin in the same year. Hand hewn granite blocks were carefully selected by colour, given a woven appearance, arranged in the Aberdeen Bond pattern on the façade only. Corner blocks in a quoin pattern & window sills are quarried white limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand. Classic Gothic Revival arch-top windows compliment the façade, complete with limestone flattened segmental arched lintels with centre quoin. Even basement windows, just above grade, have been highlighted in this manner. Three decorative brick chimneys have survived time & the elements to this day. The original banded fish scale patterned slate roof has been maintained



744356 Road 74, Zorra

The west side of the house, that is visible from the driveway, features a diminished Aberdeen Bond - with only two snecks supporting hewn granite blocks. The south elevation is constructed in plain hewn block bond.

Some historic mortars, particularly in the late 19th century, were tinted to match or contrast with the brick or stone.



Red pigments, sometimes in the form of brick dust, as well as brown, and black pigments were commonly used. The Alexander Sutherland house is an example of red mortar, whether this was an original element of Crellin's construction or a later repointing restoration process is unknown.

744356 Road 74, Zorra



The kitchen & pantry tail section is constructed in a more rustic fashion, with minimally shaped stone brought to courses with supported with random rubble stones. In high Gothic Revival fashion, fancy barge boards still ornament the Sutherland stone house, in a scrolling lacy cutwork pattern. Finely wrought shutters, built to fit & compliment the arched windows were present on the house in 1891, likely crafted by Crellin himself.

744356 Road 74, Zorra



The Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse was not complete without decorative wood trim and the elaborate finial at the gable peak that extends above the roof line defines this. The original open front porch as conceived by Crellin, is ornamented by decorative corbels, & a dentil frieze board bands the structure, painted in contrasting colours. The open porch once continued to the west elevation and sheltered a side door that opened to the driveway side.

Some time in the early part of the twentieth century the open porch was closed in by stone, creating a sun porch. A new front door surround was added at this time, with a fanlight transom and sidelights replacing a simple original door. An arched portico supported by columns was added to complete the new façade. Tiered stone steps permit access to the front door. The west porch was also enclosed at this time.

Both Lawrence and Sutherland appear to have wanted to express their Scottish origins by incorporating the Cross of St. Andrew (the patron Saint of Scotland) into the decor of their houses. In the Lawrence house, this motif is found at the peak of the bargeboards of the two gables on the front façade facing east and in the bargeboards of the secondary façade facing south. In the Sutherland house, the Cross of St. Andrew appears in ornamental frosted glass windows of three interior French doors.

*The Late Nineteenth-century Stone Farmhouses of John Thompson Crellin
Karen Elisabeth Armstrong*

744357 Road 74, Zorra

Location: Lot 6 West,
Concession 7,
West Zorra

Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Cottage / Gothic
Revival

Notable features:
Aberdeen Bond
Façade

Construction date:
between 1851-1861

Original owner:
Robert Sutherland,
1802-1890

Façade Stone Mason:
John Thompson
Crellin, 1837-1922



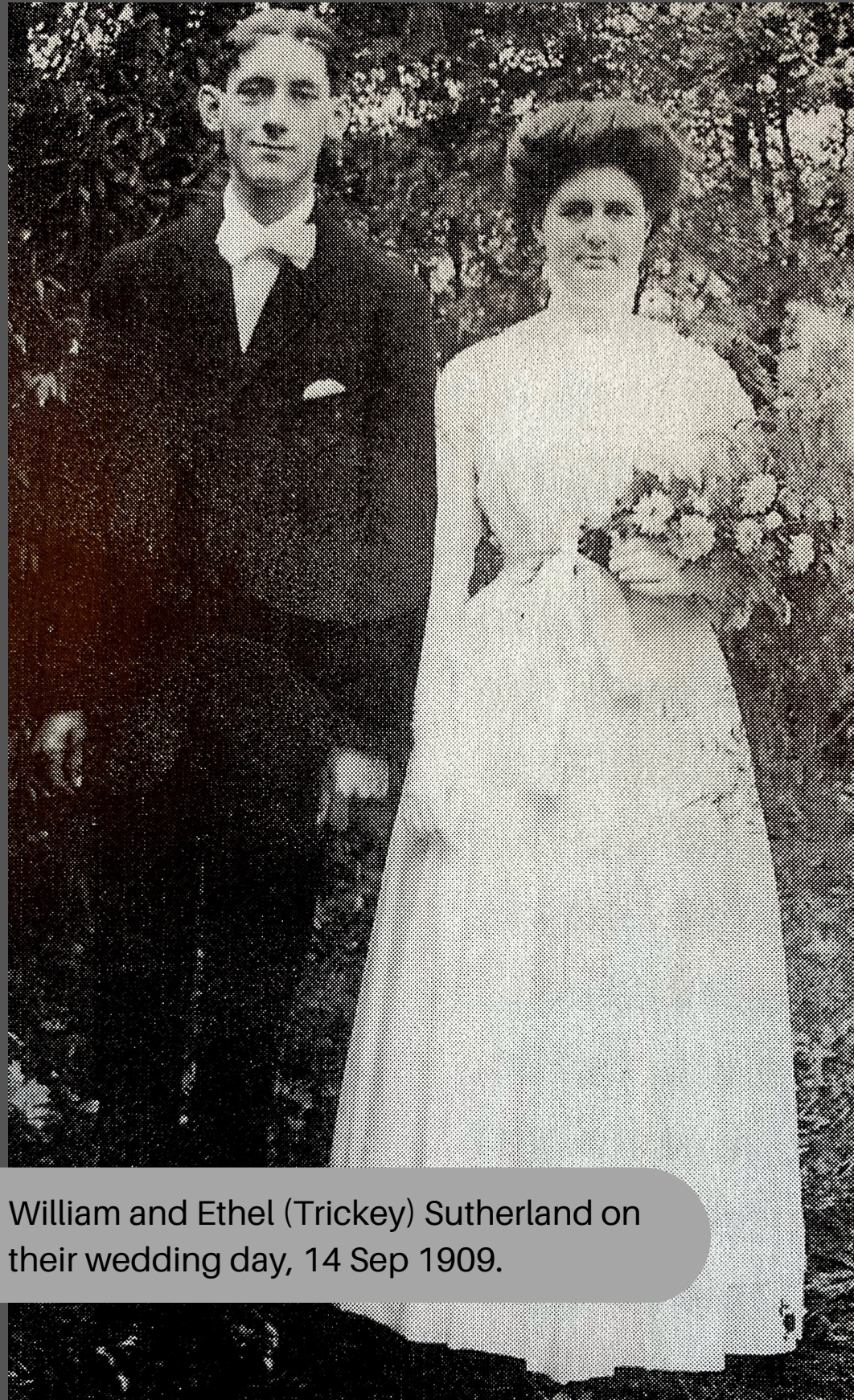
2022 south elevation

744357 Road 74, Zorra

PERSONAL CENSUS. 1861 Enumeration District, No. <i>of the Township West Zorra</i> of <i>Coxford</i>														
NAMES OF INMATES.	PROFESSION, TRADE, OR OCCUPATION.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	Married during the year.	RELIGION.	RESIDENCE, IF OUT OF LIMITS.	Age next Birthday.	SEX.		Married or Single.	Widowers.	Widows.	HOUSES.		
							Male.	Female.				Brick, Stone, Frame, Log, &c.	No. of Stories.	No. of families living in house.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	32	33	34
1 Robert Sutherland	Yeoman	Scotland		T. C.		61	1	4	1			Stone	1 1/2	1
2 Ann Sutherland		"		"		58			1					
3 Betsy Sutherland		Canada		"		27								
4 Donald Sutherland		"		"		23								
5 Angus Sutherland		"		"		21								
6 Robert Sutherland		"		"		19								
7 John Sutherland		"		"		17								
8 Alexander Sutherland		"		"		15								
9 Margaret Sutherland		"		"		13								
10 Elizabeth Sutherland		Scotland		"		85								

On November 10, 1829, Robert Sutherland (1802–1890) purchased Lot 6 for four pounds, seven shillings and six pence. The Sutherlands were crofters from near Golspie in the highlands of Scotland. In 1829, Robert married Ann Campbell (1803–1882) & the couple emigrated to Zorra. The couple went on to have a family of nine children, all born in Zorra: Betsy (1833–1903), Anne (1835–1907), Donald (1836–1909), Angus (1838–1916), John C. (1842–1931), Robert (1844–1917), Alexander C. (1844–1925), Margaret (1848–1929), William J. (1868–Deceased). The 1861 Census of Canada states that the Sutherland family is living in a one & a half storey stone house. It can be surmised from this document that the Sutherland stone house at Lot 6, was built well before mason, John Thompson Crellin, was working in the area.

744357 Road 74, Zorra



William and Ethel (Trickey) Sutherland on their wedding day, 14 Sep 1909.

In 1880, the farm passed to Robert's son, Donald (1836–1909). It was under his ownership that master stone mason, John Thompson Crellin (1837-1922) was perhaps engaged to facelift & enhance what was a humble 1850s stone cottage, by creating a new Gothic Revival façade. Donald remained a bachelor & eight years later the farm passed to his nephew, William McLeod Sutherland (Alexander's son). William (1887-1965) married Ethel Trickey (1882-1953) in 1909. It is said that that when William Sutherland took over the farm he could have had a barn with a full stone foundation or a veranda around the house. William chose the veranda. it remains today in splendid condition, creating a gracious compliment to the house. The Sutherlands named this property 'Windover', and to this day it continues to be owned by descendants.

Historically Bound: The History of Embro and West Zorra, 1820-2007

744357 Road 74, Zorra



The Robert Sutherland Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house façade was crafted by Crellin using his preferred Aberdeen Bond masonry style. The Gothic Revival gable peak was likely also added at this time, changing the roofline.

The east elevation is an example of random rubble masonry in which stones are laid in layers of equal height. The hammer dressed stones are laid in somewhat level courses, filled in with supporting sneck stones. This elevation reveals the original masonry of the 1850s house.

2022 south & east elevation

744357 Road 74, Zorra

The façade of the Donald Sutherland house features carefully selected stones that created a basketweave effect. Corner stones are arranged in a quoin pattern and are made of St. Marys limestone. Substantial limestone lintels & sills support doors & windows. Windows are in a two over two pane pattern, with those on the upper storey being slightly smaller. The arch-top window in the façade gable peak is framed by carefully created fan-shaped limestone, with a centre quoin. A deep transom with corbel details & sidelights surrounds the gracious front door. Twin brick chimneys bracket the roofline. The roof was perhaps originally wood shake shingles and remains so today. A wood frame tail section perhaps houses the kitchen & pantry space.



2022 east elevation

744357 Road 74, Zorra



2022 south elevation

The Sutherland stone house is ornamented by scrolling barge boards highlighting the gable ends. The flowing flower or leaf design had great popularity on many Ontario Gothic homes. The gable peaks are further enhanced by a finial that extends well above & below the roofline. The romantic wrap around porch encapsulates the design philosophy of the period. The porch is decorated with cobweb-inspired corbels, supporting round columns.

There is surprisingly little evidence available as yet on how our Ontario barge boards were cut. Occasional advertisements exist showing that certain saw mills had scroll saws, but I have seen no advertisement for a mill which was prepared to design barge boards or sell them by the foot. It is an area unresearched. From the sources I know of I believe that each builder made a sketch of the gable and the type of board and finial he was going to use. Some no doubt copied directly from copy book designs, such as those illustrated. Having decided on what he wanted, the builder proceeded to draw out on a selected board the proposed pattern along the length of the gable's verge, at the peak, and at the junction with the horizontal eaves. If it was to be a pierced board with straight edges a hole would be drilled and a fret saw blade or a jig saw blade would be inserted. In general the fret saw usually refers to a saw used in joinery and operated with a treadle, whereas a jig saw is used on timber. Another word for jig saw is scroll saw. Once inserted in the hole the blade would commence by up and down reciprocating action to cut out along the marked lines leaving the straight edged board with a pierced pattern.

The Gaiety of Gables: Ontario's Architectural Folk Art by Anthony Adamson

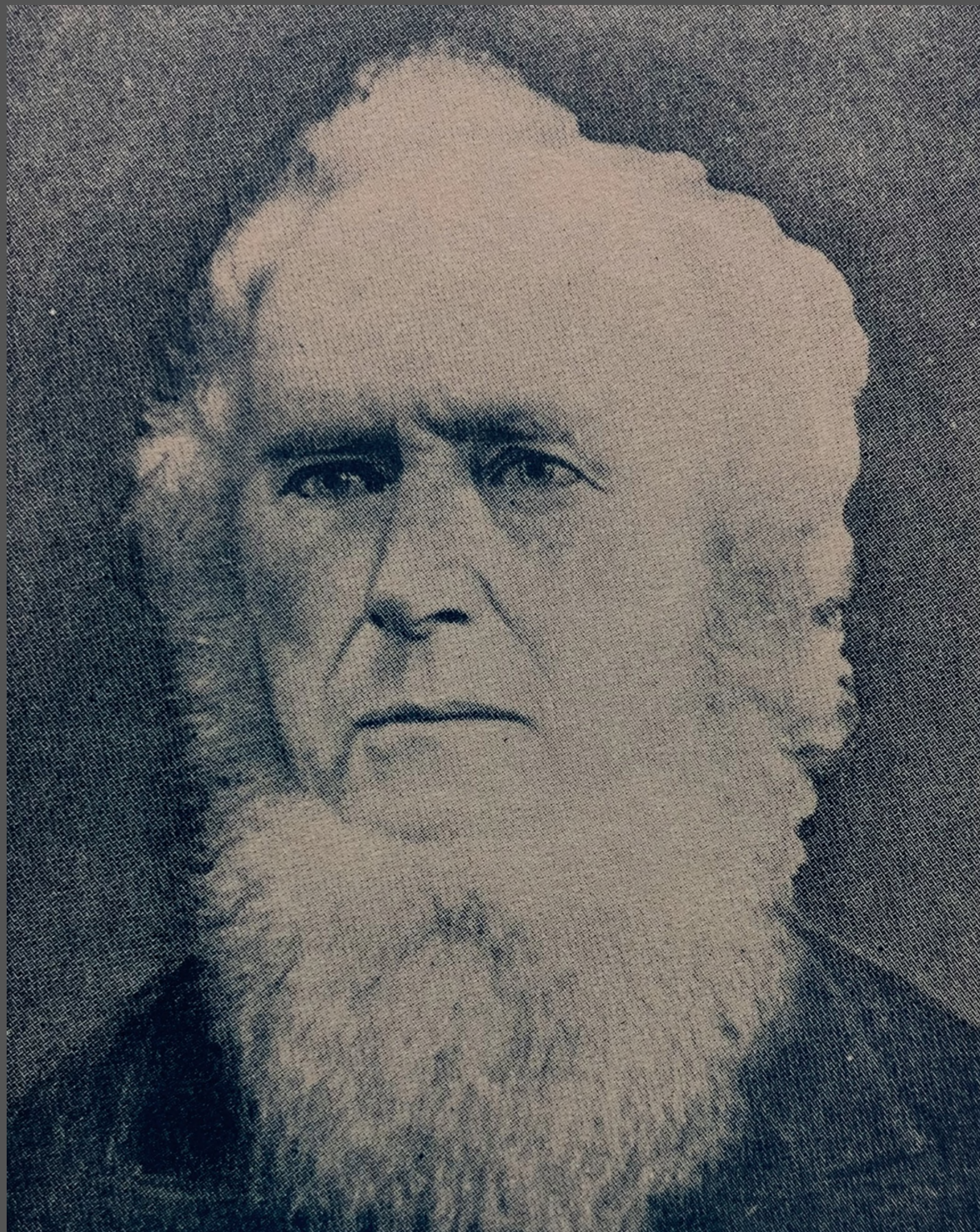
784258 Road 78, Zorra



2022 north elevation

Location: Lot 10 East,
Concession 6,
West Zorra
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Georgian
Notable features:
Heavy stone lintels
Construction date:
between 1835-1851
Original owner:
Rev. Donald
MacKenzie, 1798-
1884
Stone Mason:
unknown

784258 Road 78, Zorra



Rev. Donald MacKenzie, 1798–1884

Donald MacKenzie (1798–1884) was born in Scotland in 1798. In early life he exhibited a Godly disposition and became a school teacher at sixteen years of age. Later, he attended the University of Aberdeen and the Edinburgh Divinity School.

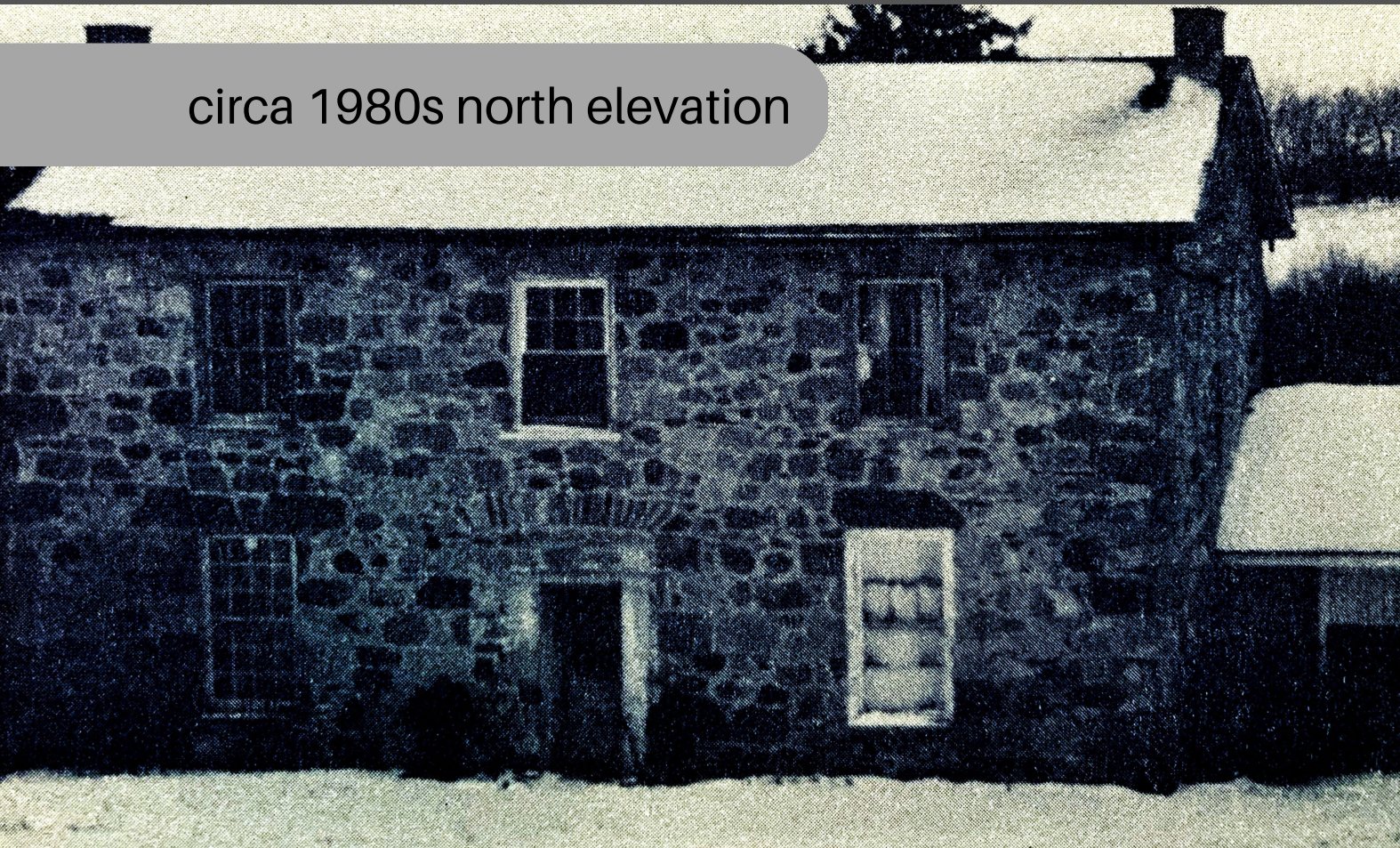
He was ordained in 1834, and almost immediately left his native land to take up his ministry in Canada, together with his wife, Elizabeth Christina Cameron (1810–1884). He was inducted into the Zorra church on June 11, 1835 by the Presbytery of Toronto. The original parish was almost twenty-five miles square including later the churches of Thamesford, Harrington Kintore, Brooksdale and Burns.

The MacKenzies went on to have a family of six children, all born in Zorra: Elizabeth Margaret (1839–1927), Mary (1842–Deceased), Lina C. (1843–Deceased), Alexina Cameron (1843–1843), Thomas Cameron (1846–1930), Alexander Cameron (1849–1915), Donald (1855–1871). MacKenzie was to become West Zorra's first superintendent of schools. He was to teach the classics to prospective teachers, aiding many of them to get their teaching certificates. He passed away in 1884 and is buried in the North Embro Cemetery.

Embro and Zorra 1858-1983, A Pictorial

784258 Road 78, Zorra

circa 1980s north elevation



2022 north elevation



Reverend Donald Mackenzie christened the stone house, 'Glenness' which was erected shortly after their arrival in Zorra in 1835. The 1851 Census of Canada documents the family living in a two storey stone house. In 1988, the home was acquired by the Jasinski family. In gutting the house, they left the original stairs and railing, but peeled back the carpet and linoleum to expose the original pine floor. When they took down the brickwork near the wood stoves in the rooms flanking the central entranceway, they found two stone fireplaces, each with a large hearthstone. The original shutters were kept. Sidelights and a transom were incorporated in rebuilding the front door, which had been diminished & filled in over the years.

784258 Road 78, Zorra

2022 north & west elevation



The MacKenzie Ontario Farmhouse Georgian stone house is an example of random rubble masonry, brought to courses. Proportional stone corner blocks support randomly sized rubble stones brought courses - each course reflecting the size of the corner block. The blocks of stones that are used are roughly dressed. The masonry has wide joints since stones of irregular size are used, with small sneck stones supporting the courses. Lintels are composed of carefully selected stones shaped & tightly set vertically, with the exception of the first storey windows. Extremely substantial stone lintels support these openings, which lends credence to an early construction date. Windows sills were fashioned from wood, likely replaced with limestone at a later date. Windows on the front façade were once twelve over twelve on the lower level & six over six paned above, as depicted in the 1980s image. Replacement windows in a two-over-two paned configuration, speak to a more Victorian aesthetic. Twin brick chimneys still bookend the roofline. A wood frame tail section extends to the west, & likely housed the kitchen & pantry.

784285 Road 78, Zorra



2004 south & east elevation
photograph by Doug A. Huntley

Location: Lot 11 East,
Concession 6,
West Zorra

Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Georgian

Notable features:
Hip roof

Construction date:
after 1891

Original owner:
Alexander
Smith, 1862-1951

Stone Mason:
unknown

Demolished: after
2004

784285 Road 78, Zorra

Alexander Smith (1862-1951) bought the east 100 acres on this lot in 1891. In September of the following year, he married Margaret Minerva Lambe (1867-1951) of Arkona. The couple went on to have a family of five: William Burns (1893-1962), Gordon Alexander (1895-1975), James Gilbert (1898-Deceased), Frank Lamb (1902-Deceased), Helen Margaret (1909-Deceased).



The Smiths of Lot 11, Concession 6, in about 1908. Front left Margaret Lambe; unknown; Frank, 6; Bums, 15; and Alexander (Sandy).

784285 Road 78, Zorra

1997 south elevation
photograph by Doug A. Huntley



The Smith Ontario Farmhouse Georgian stone house is an example of coursed square rubble masonry. Squared, chisel dressed stones are laid in equal courses, with uniform mortar joints. Small sneck stones support the field stones. Plaster of Paris is used to waterproof the mortar. The symmetrical, balanced Georgian façade, is secondary in this example. The eastern elevation is the primary focus with its narrow Victorian aesthetic. An ornate open porch contributes to the appeal, with turned posts, a spindle frieze, and decorative corner brackets.

The hip roof is unique to this stone house, with central brick chimney, again, speaking to a later construction date. The roof would have been covered by wood shake shingles originally. Large Victorian windows appear to be divided by two small panes on the lower half. Windows are supported by hand hewn stones laid vertically in a quoin style pattern. A wood frame tail section extended to the north, likely housing kitchen, pantry & laundry facilities. The Smith stone house was demolished after 2004.

804071 Road 80, Zorra



2022 south elevation

Location: Lot 12 West,
Concession 5,
West Zorra
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Cottage
Notable features:
Small stone size
Construction date:
1857
Original owner:
George Matheson,
1808-1877
Stone Mason:
unknown

804071 Road 80, Zorra

George Matheson (1808-1877) was born near Golspie, Sutherland, Scotland & apprenticed as a carpenter before emigrating to Canada in 1830. In 1834, George married Isabella McKay (1803-1868). The couple went on to have a family of 7 children: John (1835-1897), Jane (1836-Deceased), Angus (1837-1920), George (1839-Deceased), James Matheson (1844-1932), Donald (1845-1894), Robert (1845-1911).

The 1861 Census of Canada documents the family living in a stone house crafted in 1857. The Matheson family seems to have moved on from this property by 1870.

Alexander Murray (1858-1927) acquires the stone house in 1919. His wife was Margaret J. McBurney (1863-1933), and they had eight children William A., James, Alice, Ada, Belle, Kathleen, Hillie and Annie. It was William (1901-1978) who took title to this farm in 1929. In the spring of 1958, William sold the stone house to LaVeme and Carmeen Brenneman. The Brennemans say it was the view that drew them to this location. With that view came a bathroom facility known as a "two-holer." It was located in the woodshed, which was connected to the house with a passageway. The house had storm windows, but the Brennemans still spent a cold first winter. They had a well drilled, which meant they longer had to haul water from the bam to the house. It took them 16 years to renovate the house, and by then it was time to start over.

Historically Bound: The History of Embro and West Zorra, 1820-2007



804071 Road 80, Zorra

1970s south & east elevation
Brenneman family photograph



The Matheson Ontario Farmhouse Cottage stone house is an example of a Regency cottage, with a four-sided hip roof. Symmetry is essential for the Regency design. The placement of the chimney indicates that the interior of the house is placed around a central fireplace. Classic six over six paned windows flank the doorway.

The masonry technique used is that of random rubble brought to courses. The blocks of stones that are used are either undressed or comparatively roughly dressed, only the corner stones seem to have been squared. The masonry has wide joints since stones of irregular size are used, with many small sneck stones supporting the courses. Unique to the Matheson cottage, is that the stones used are of a small scale, perhaps the stone mason worked alone and this facilitated his construction process. His flair for craftsmanship is apparent in the round stones that make up the east elevation that are neatly bolstered by sneck stones in multitude.

804071 Road 80, Zorra



Lintels are composed of carefully selected stones shaped & set vertically. Windows sills were fashioned from wood originally. The gracious front door is augmented by side lights & transom, millwork & a dentil architrave add importance to the façade. The roof was once covered in wood shake shingles. A shed-style stone tail section was added to the north side at a later date, as evidenced by a clear division line in the masonry on the east elevation.

843479 Road 84, Zorra



2022 west elevation

Location: Lot 16
West,
Concession 1,
West Zorra
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Gothic Revival
Notable features:
Colourful stones
Construction date:
1862
Original owner:
James
McCorquodale,
1820-1890
Stone Mason:
unknown

843479 Road 84, Zorra



At left, James McCorquodale 1821-1890 & Camilla Wilson McCorquodale 1827-1897, depicted circa 1870.

Children of the couple, posed at the front door of the stone house.

John C. Ball got the deed for these 200 acres in 1822 - but for more than the next 100 years, the land on this lot belonged to McCorquodales. The first was Donald (1779-1852), who had come to Canada from Argyleshire, Scotland in 1832, and settled next door on Lot 15. One of his sons, James (1821-1890), took ownership of Lot 16 in 1850. A squabble between brothers, James (1821-1890) & Squire Alexander (1818-1896), resulted in James moving north.

843479 Road 84, Zorra

2022 south elevation



James McCorquodale (1821-1890) & Camilla Wilson McCorquodale (1827-1897) were married in 1847 in Ontario. The couple went on to have a family of five children: Janet (1848-1930), Augustus Gustav (1849-1905), William (1852-1911), Camilla (1857-1904) & Mary Elizabeth (1864-1930).

Ernie and Gladys (Furlong) Bailey bought the farm in 1954 and established a dairy operation.

843479 Road 84, Zorra

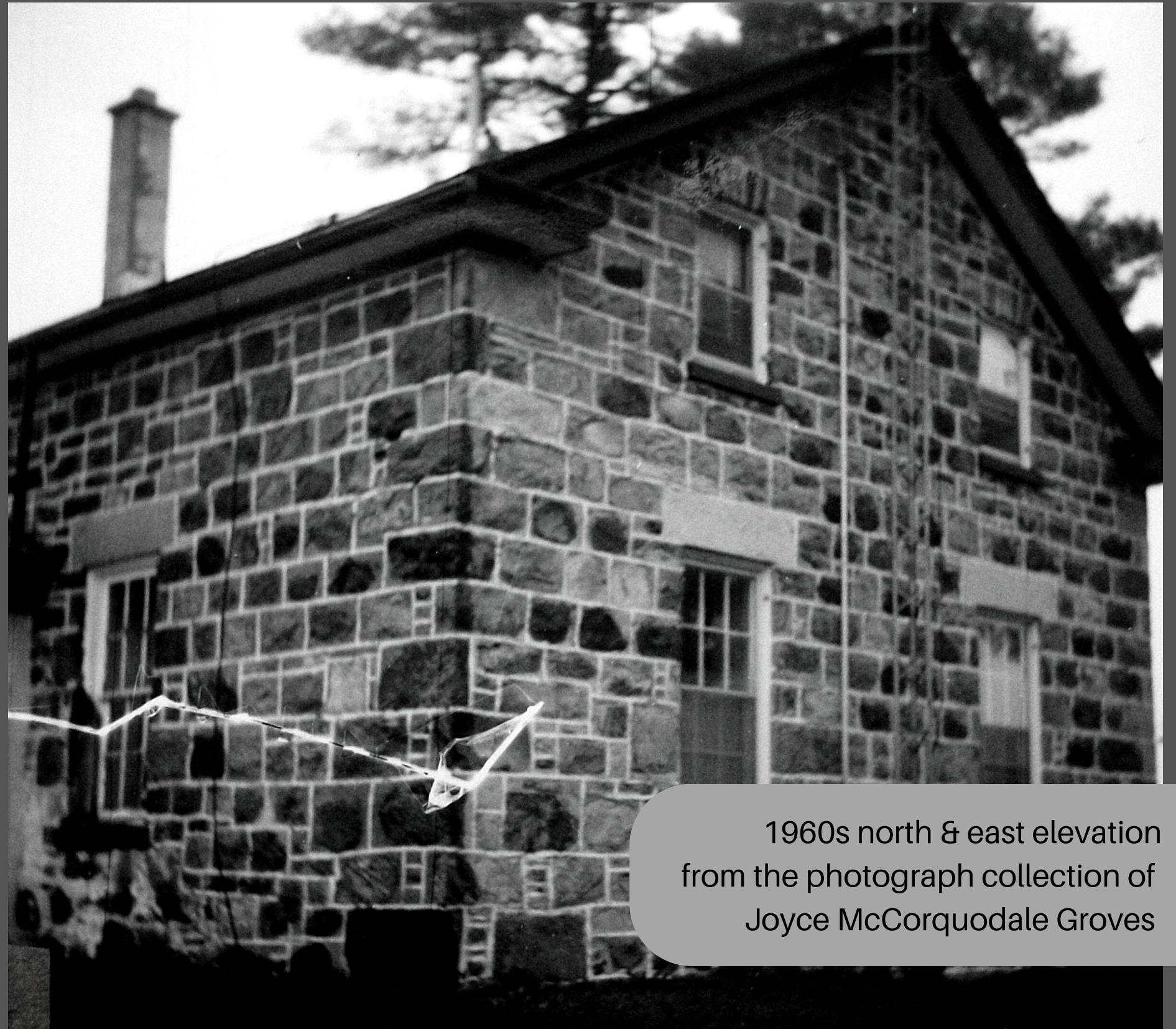
1960s west elevation
from the photograph collection of
Joyce McCorquodale Groves



The James McCorquodale Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house is similar to the Sutherland house at 256258 25th Line. The stonework façade as well as the sides of the house have extremely even blocks, with no discernibly large corner stones. Original windows are in the six-over-six pane pattern, upper storey windows are smaller in scale. Front elevation lintels and window sills are quarried limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand. Side elevations feature hand hewn stone lintels supporting upper windows. The tracery gothic arched window in the front gable has been framed by shaped stones fashioned to highlight the curve. The front door was once paneled and inset, with glass side lights & transom.

843479 Road 84, Zorra

The original roof may have been wood shake shingles, though a steel roof has prevailed at some point. The Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse was not complete without decorative wood trim to accent the gable, this ornamentation was known as barge board or gingerbread. The McCorquodale stone house may once have had such trims that have succumbed to time. The detailed deep eaves and returns provide accent to the side elevation. Mortar joints are covered with plaster of Paris with back & side elevations comprised of smaller stone courses, supported by snecks.



1960s north & east elevation
from the photograph collection of
Joyce McCorquodale Groves

843479 Road 84, Zorra



circa 1880s east elevation depicting James McCorquodale (1821–1890) & Camilla Wilson McCorquodale (1827–1897) & their family.

The McCorquodale stone house had a brick tail section which was likely added at a later date, housing the kitchen area.

Victorian style two-over-two windows in the brick addition suggest this period. Twin ornate brick chimneys bookend the roof, as well as add a central vent to the kitchen stove in the addition. A south facing porch once sheltered the back door.

883224 Road 88, Zorra



2022 north elevation

Location: Lot 20
East, Concession
12,
East Nissouri
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Gothic Revival
Notable features:
Gracious
proportions
Construction date:
after 1861
Original owner:
Hugh McKay, 1813-
1868
Stone Mason:
Angus Shaw,
1824-1888?

883224 Road 88, Zorra

Hugh McKay (1813-1868?) was born in Sutherland, Scotland. He married Hughena McKay (1824-1909) in 1846 in Eddrachillis, Sutherland, Scotland. The couple emigrated to Zorra & acquired Lot 20 East in May 1856 from the Crown. The 1861 Census of Canada documents the McKay family living in a log house. Hugh & Hughena went on to have a family of nine children: Jannet (1846-Deceased), Margaret (1848-Deceased), Florence Ann (1850-1930), Alexandrina (1852-Deceased), Christina (1854-1938), Kenneth Hugh (1857-Deceased), William (1859-Deceased), Murdock Angus (1860-1934), Jane (1864-Deceased).

The 1871 Census of Canada states that Hughena is a widow, living with her children. Perhaps the stone house was commissioned by the McKays between 1861 & 1870, as it is a decision that they likely made together. It is supposition that Hugh & Hughena engaged neighbour & stone mason, Angus Shaw (1824-1888) to build a stone house for their growing family. The farm seems to stay in the McKay name until the 1920s.

Ingersoll Chronicle & Canadian Dairyman
Apr I 1909

Another old pioneer passed away last week, in the person of Mrs. Hughena McKay, relict of the late Hugh McKay. She died at her son Murdoch McKay's residence on the IIth concession, East Nissouri [township]. Deceased was 89 years of age. The remains were interred at Kintore cemetery.

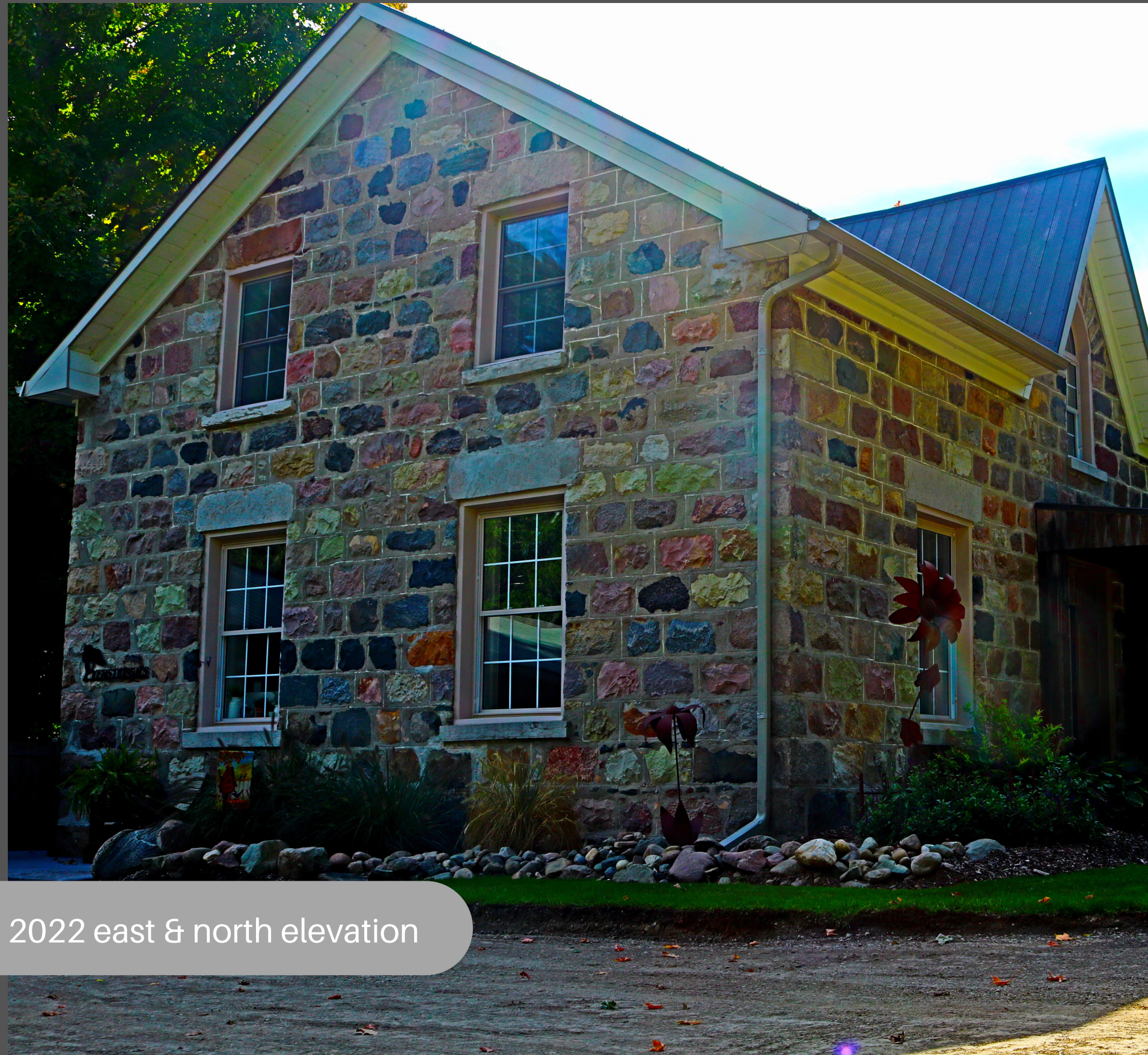
883224 Road 88, Zorra

The McKay Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house is strikingly similar to the Shaw Stone house at 256261 25th Line. It may be the work of the same stone mason, Angus Shaw, as the houses are located very near each other. Shaw completed his own house before 1861 and may have worked on the McKay House shortly after, as he departed for Oregon in 1876. The stonework façade as well as the sides of the house have extremely even blocks, with no discernibly large corner stones. It is an example of coursed square rubble masonry. Stones are chisel-dressed into an almost square shape and arranged in courses, with the height of stones in each course kept equal, with consistent mortar joints. Plaster of Paris is still in evidence, waterproofing the mortar. Windows are in the six-over-six pane pattern, likely replacement, but reflecting something true of the period. Lintels and window sills are quarried limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand.



2022 west elevation

883224 Road 88, Zorra



The tracery gothic arched window in the front gable has been framed by shaped stones fashioned to highlight the curve. The original roof may have been wood shake shingles, though a steel roof prevailed at some point. The Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse was not complete without decorative wood trim to accent the gable, this ornamentation was known as barge board or gingerbread. The McKay house may have had this decoration at one time. Coved millwork highlights the soffit area, adding a shadow line and another layer of detail. The front door is augmented by many-paned side lights & transom. A portico shelters the front door, perhaps a later addition.

2022 east & north elevation

883375 Road 88, Zorra



Location: Lot 21
East,
Concession 13,
East Nissouri
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Cottage
Notable features:
Pleasing symmetry
Construction date:
after 1851
Original owner:
Ebenezer
Sutherland, 1808-
1867
Stone Mason:
Angus Shaw,
1824-1888?

2009 south elevation, photograph by Doug A. Huntley

883375 Road 88, Zorra

Brothers, Ebenezer (1808-1867) & William Paton Sutherland (1814-1892), natives of Rogart, Sutherlandshire, Scotland, emigrated to Oxford in the late 1830s.

Ebenezer married Christina Orr (1811-1899) in 1843 in Zorra. Ebenezer acquired the east half of Lot 21 in 1851. The 1861 census states that the couple is living with their family of 7 children in a stone house: James (1844-Deceased), Mary Ann (1845-1927), Catherine (1847-1919), George (1849-1880), Alexander D. (1851-1923), Johanna (1853-1883), William Gunn (1858-1929). The stone house remained in the Sutherland family until the death of Christina in 1899.



2009 east elevation, photograph by Doug A. Huntley

883375 Road 88, Zorra



2004 south elevation, photograph by Doug A. Huntley

The Ebenezer Sutherland Ontario Farmhouse Cottage is an example of coursed random rubble masonry. This type of masonry has hammer-dressed stones placed in a level courses, laid in layers of equal height. If the smaller stones are encountered, then two or three stones are stacked one above another to obtain the height of the course. Plaster of Paris augments the mortar joints. Window & door lintels are crafted of small stones stacked vertically. Twin brick chimneys bracket the roofline. The roof would have originally been covered with wood shake shingles. A wood frame tail sections extends to the north and would have provided kitchen space for the home. It is possible that Angus Shaw, stone mason & nearby neighbour, was commissioned to build the Sutherland cottage.

883737 Road 88, Zorra



2022 south elevation

Location: Lot 21
East,
Concession 2,
West Zorra
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Cottage
Notable features:
Hip roof
Construction date:
1853
Original owner:
Thomas
Glendinning, 1789-
1874
Stone Mason:
unknown

883737 Road 88, Zorra



Jane Heron (1839-1921) & Thomas Glendinning (1789-1874)

Thomas Glendinning (1789-1874) was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland as was his wife, Helen Huntley (1791-1875). They emigrated to Canada in 1821. The Glendinning name first appeared on deeds to parts of Lot 21 in 1846. The 1851 Census of Canada documents the family living in a log house. The 1861 Census of Canada states that the Glendinning family is living in a stone house built in 1853. On the death of Helen, Thomas married Jane Heron (1839-1921). Rev. Donald MacKenzie performed the ceremony in the manse in Embro. Their children were Thomas Jr., (1871-1946), Robert L. (1874- 1957), George Adam (1876-1944). Thomas Jr. and Robert farmed with their father. In 1947, Thomas Glendinning severed and sold two parts on the southeast corner. One of those parts was three acres and included a Regency cottage built by Scottish stonemasons. There are six large stones in each corner of the original house. The walls are two-feet thick, and all the windows in the older section have seats. Heat came from a woodstove in the kitchen. Later there was a stove that could bum wood or oil.

883737 Road 88, Zorra



2022 south & east elevation

The Glendinning Ontario Farmhouse Cottage stone house is an example of a Regency cottage, with a four-sided hip roof. Symmetry is essential for the Regency design. The placement of the chimney indicates that the interior of the house is placed around a central fireplace. Classic six over six paned windows flank the doorway.

The Glendinning Ontario Farmhouse Cottage bears a resemblance to the Pelton Cottage at 336206 33rd Line, both exhibit elements of the Regency style, similar masonry technique & were constructed in the same period. It is possible that the same stone mason crafted both cottages.

883737 Road 88, Zorra

The Glendinning Ontario Farmhouse Cottage is unique in that, for its size, the corner stones are massive. The masonry technique used is that of random rubble brought to courses. The blocks of stones that are used are either undressed or comparatively roughly dressed, only the corner stones seem to have been squared. The masonry has wide joints since stones of irregular size are used, with many small sneck stones supporting the courses. Lintels are composed of carefully selected stones shaped & set vertically. Windows sills were fashioned from wood originally.



2009 south elevation, photograph by Doug A. Huntley

923382 Road 92, Zorra



1970s north elevation

photograph from the collection of Joyce McCorquodale Groves

Location: Lot 25
East,
Concession 13,
East Nissouri
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Cottage
Notable features:
Dormer window
Construction date:
between 1851-
1861
Original owner:
George
Hawkesworth
1808-1858
Stone Mason:
unknown
Demolished: 1976

923382 Road 92, Zorra

George Hawkesworth (1808-1858) was born in Friskney, Lincolnshire, England. He married Elizabeth Morley (1815-1900) in 1833 in Lincolnshire, England. The couple emigrated to Zorra before 1848. The family appears on the 1851 Census of Canada living in a log shanty.

By 1861, the census captures that George (1808-1858) has died and Elizabeth is living in a stone house as a widow, with her eight children: John (1826-1910), Sarah (1839-Deceased), George (1842-1934), Joseph (1845-1913), Samuel (1848-1917), Morley (1849-1916), Eleanor (1852-1927), James (1855-1943). The Hawkesworth family maintained ownership until 1889, when it passed to the Donald & Elizabeth 'Betsey' McCorquodale family.



1970s east elevation
1970s north elevation
photographs from the collection of Joyce McCorquodale Groves

923382 Road 92, Zorra



Elizabeth 'Betsey' Young McCorquodale,
1851-1935, circa 1919



THE HOUSE ON "BETSEY'S HILL" — This remains of what must have been at one time a handsome rural home, lies just east of Lakeside opposite the Donald Seaton farm. The last occupants of the house were the Noon family some of whose members still live in the Lakeside, Thamesford and Granton areas. Many Lakeside area residents remember the hill on which the house is situated as "Betsey's Hill". Anyway, wreck or not, the house looked like a very picturesque subject to the Journal-Argus junior photographer who turned out this picture of it recently.

Donald Daniel McCorquodale (1836-1913) & Elizabeth 'Betsey' Mahala Young (1851-1935) lived in the stone cottage with some of their nine children. The rise in the road where the house was situated came to be known as Betsey's Hill amongst the residents in the Lakeside area.

923382 Road 92, Zorra

1970s east & north elevation



The Hawesworth Ontario Farmhouse Cottage was built in the Regency style and it is an example of Random Rubble Masonry brought to courses. Stones have been roughly dressed by the mason and small stones support the integrity of the wall. The four-sided hip roof & peaked dormer window are hallmarks of the Regency style cottage. Window sills were comprised of wood. Lintels are composed of hewn limestone. The roof was once fabricated of wood shake shingles. The house fell into disrepair & became abandoned by the 1960s.

923382 Road 92, Zorra



The Warners, while on a drive in 1975, noticed a lot with an early Ontario stone cottage on it.

The house was actually pretty far gone and completely covered in vines. Seeing the for sale sign, we eventually bought the lot which was part of Lot 25 Con 13, with the deal closing that fall. We soon found out that the acre was named Betsey's Hill. (Everyone told us so). Our hopes of having it restored came too late, but we were able to use the beautiful fieldstones and a fair amount of the old lumber. We started to tear down the old building in the spring of 1976 setting aside stones that later would become the centre piece of our living room - a rustic looking field stone wood-burning fireplace. Bill saved the old joists from the house which he used to build a large book shelf unit in the family room. One of the beams was set in to become the fire place mantel. Bill spent two summers building beautiful retaining walls with the stones. He employed the huge limestone window sills as steps leading up from the yard to the large deck across the south side of the house.

East Nissouri Township: People, Perseverance, Progress

2022 fireplace & mantle

923590 Road 92, Zorra



circa 1925, Annie McIntosh (1857-1949) at left & family

Location: Lot 25
East,
Concession 1,
West Zorra
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Notable features:
Aberdeen Bond
Construction date:
between 1851-
1861
Original owner:
George McIntosh,
1815-1887
Stone Mason:
unknown
Burned: 1927

923590 Road 92, Zorra

George McIntosh (1815-1887) was born in the parish of Eddrachillis, Sutherlandshire, Scotland. His wife, Alexandrina 'Lexie' Ross (1815-1902) was born in Tain, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland. In 1841, they sailed from Kinlochbervie, Scotland, to Canada. The 1861 Census of Canada documents the family living in Zorra in a log house, built in 1846. George & Lexie had nine children: Hector (1841-deceased), John (1843-1920), Hugh (1844-1882), William (1848-1917), Robert (1850-1933), Angus (1853-deceased), Elizabeth (1854-1933), Sidney (1856-1926), Annie (1854-1949). George died in 1887, Lexie in 1902, and they are buried in Knox Presbyterian Cemetery, Harrington. The stone house passed to children: John (1843-1920) & Annie (1854-1949). Annie is documented as still living in the stone house on the 1921 Census of Canada. In 1927, a fire destroyed the McIntosh stone house. Later, stones salvaged from the ruins were used to build the Churchill Circle gates to the agricultural grounds in Stratford.

*Historically Bound:
the History of Embro and West Zorra, 1820-2007*

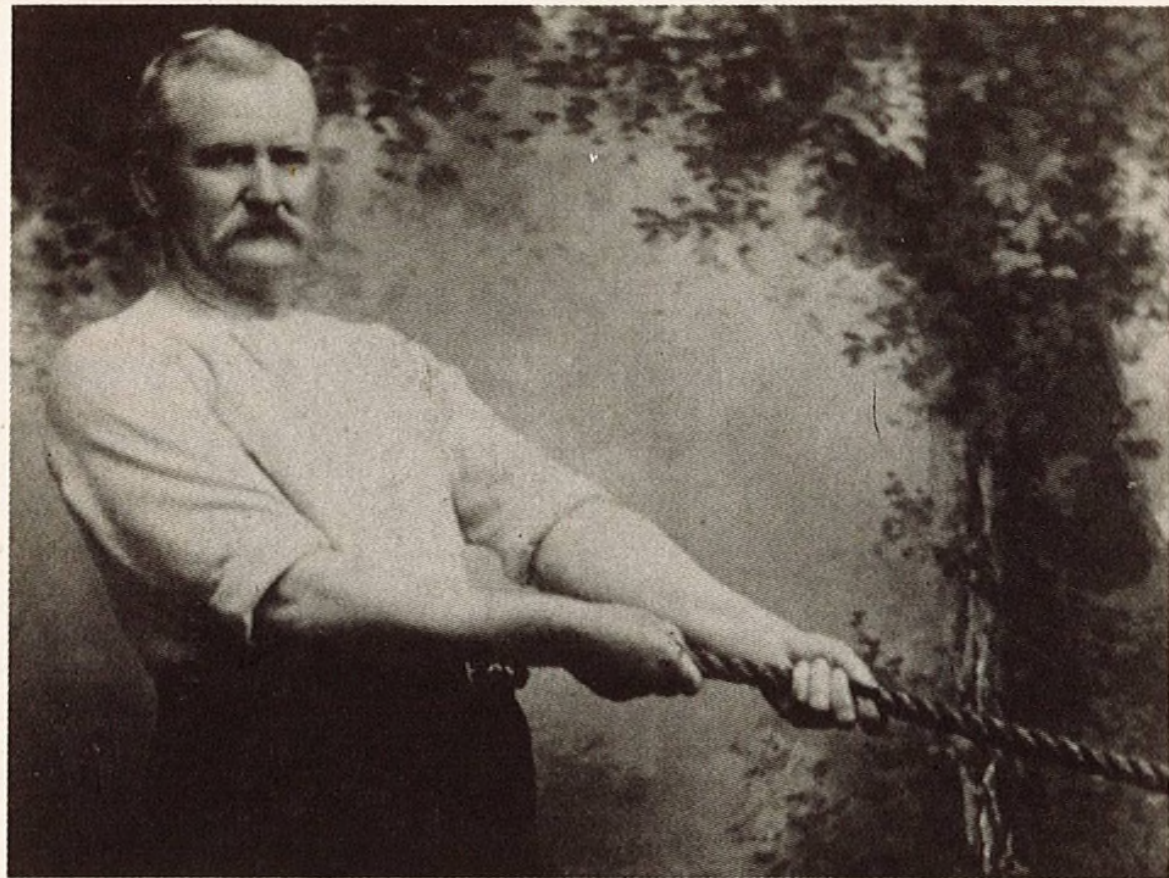
Ingersoll Tribune

May 5 1949

HAVE TWO SERVICES FOR MISS McINTOSH

A private service at the Keeler and Johnstone Funeral Home was followed by a public service in Harrington Presbyterian Church, Saturday when Miss Annie McIntosh, 94, was laid to rest in Harrington Cemetery. Miss McIntosh died in Alexandra Hospital, April 27. Rev. J. A. Isaac officiated at the services. Miss McIntosh, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George McIntosh, was brought to hospital from her Lakeside home in February. For the past 29 years she had resided with her niece, Mrs. George Gates, RR-3 Lakeside, and is the last of her family, who were pioneers in West Zorra [township]. She was a member of Harrington Presbyterian Church and a life member of the WMS. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

923590 Road 92, Zorra



Bob McIntosh, anchorman

When the 1893 World's Fair was being arranged, it was announced that tug-of-war teams would be on hand from Britain, France and Belgium and Germany as well as the United States, so the contests would not be for the North American Championship only, but for that of the world. There was not even a discussion as to whether the Zorras would take part: it was a foregone conclusion. 'The Zorras' went on to win the Chicago World's Fair Trophy, 1893.

Robert (1850-1933), son of George McIntosh (1815-1887) & Alexandrina 'Lexie' Ross (1815-1902) became the anchorman of the Tug-of-War team known as 'The Zorras'. It was said that Bob McIntosh who could successfully resist the pull of two heavy draught horses once he got set in position. The team went on to best all takers in Oxford County.

During the 1880s and 1890s, nearly every township in Oxford and other counties had its tug-of-war team; and a group of men who all lived within walking distance of Embro decided to form a team, more as a joke than anything. They called themselves "The Zorras" after their home township. One of their earliest victories was over the men of the neighbouring township, Nissouri, followed by wins in four successive years over Dereham's best. Their local success led them to look for fresh fields to conquer outside the county, spurred on no doubt by their gleeful fellow farmers. The original joke turned a little more serious when they met and beat the "Lucknow Giants" of Bruce County, and also the best that Brant County could produce.

Zorra's Men of Might by Herbert Milnes, 1976

923590 Road 92, Zorra

In all his houses, Crellin used a distinctive pattern of stone construction I will refer to as "Aberdeen Bond." This masonry style began to evolve at the end of the eighteenth century in and around Aberdeen, Scotland. In all of Crellin's houses, regularly cut "snecks" (three equal-sized small squared stones) were stacked vertically between larger rectangular blocks. On the front façades of Crellin's houses, each course begins at the corner with a white limestone quoin, followed by three small square snecks of black basalt over pink granite over black basalt stacked to the height of the quoin. [at right]

The stack of snecks is followed by a single large block of quarry-faced stone, which is followed in turn by the three snecks, and so on across the façade. The larger stones vary in colour, suggesting that each was selected at the moment of construction from piles of stones collected from the farm fields and transported by horses and a stone-boat to the building site. The quarry-faced or "rocky" aesthetic of Crellin's façades speaks of the high level of skill required for their construction

*The Late Nineteenth-century Stone Farmhouses of
John Thompson Crellin
by Karen Elisabeth Armstrong*

The façade of the McIntosh stone house bears a resemblance to John Thompson Crellin's distinctive Aberdeen Bond style masonry. It is possible that the master mason constructed this house, as its erection occurred during his active working years, between 1870-1890.



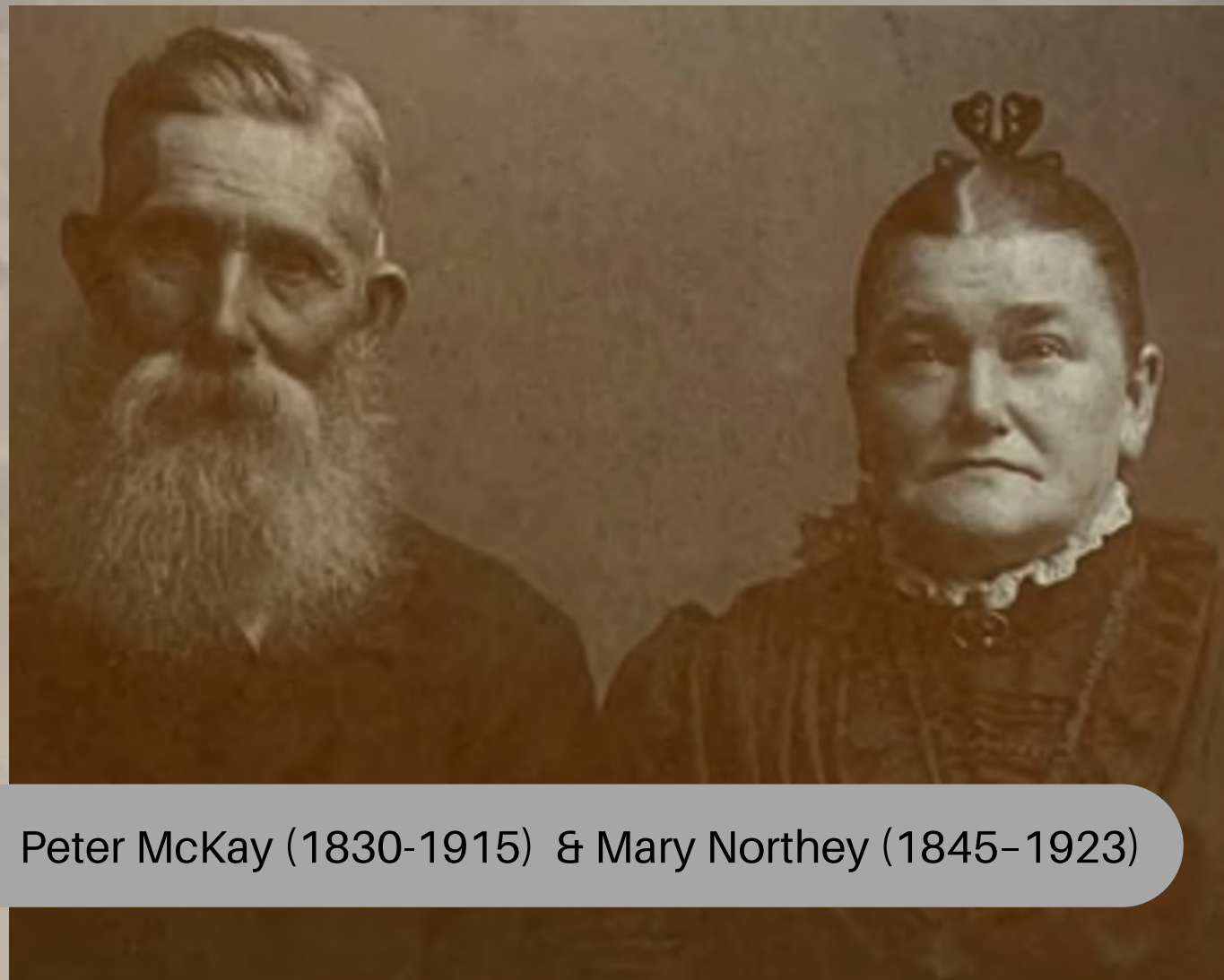
923814 Road 92, Zorra

Location: Lot 25
North,
Concession 3,
West Zorra
Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Gothic Revival
Notable features:
Aberdeen Bond
Construction date:
circa 1889
Original owner:
Peter McKay, 1830-
1915
Stone Mason:
William Waugh



2022 west & north elevation

923814 Road 92, Zorra



Peter McKay (1830-1915) & Mary Northey (1845-1923)

*Historically Bound: the History of Embro and West Zorra,
1820-2007*

Hugh McKay (1804-1879) bought Lot 25 in 1850, emigrating to Zorra from Scotland in the 1840s with his family. On the land they cleared, they built a small log house and barn. Upon his father's death, son Peter (1830-1915) acquired the farm. He had married Mary Northey (1845-1923), who had been born in Tavistock, Devonshire, England.

She and Peter had nine children: Annie Worth (1870-1948), Hugh (1871-1940), John Alexander (1874-1951), Donald James (1876-1930), Wilena Catherine (1883-1917), Mary Caroline 'Carrie' (1886-1949) & Margretta Isabella (1889-Deceased).

The McKays lived in a two-storey stone house that they had built by William Waugh in 1888-1890. James McKay of Harrington built their barn in 1895. On the death of Peter in 1915, the stone house passed to son, Donald James (1876-1930). The farm continued in the McKay name until 1938.

923814 Road 92, Zorra

circa 1900, Peter McKay (1830-1915) & Mary Northey (1845-1923), seated



2022 north elevation



The McKay Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house has five gables crowning the roofline. On the east façade, hand hewn granite blocks were carefully selected by colour, given a woven appearance when arranged in the Aberdeen Bond pattern. The secondary northern façade, has a diminished Aberdeen Bond, with two snecks. Corner blocks in a quoin pattern & window sills are quarried white limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand.

923814 Road 92, Zorra



2022 south & west elevation

The tertiary western & southern elevations of the McKay stone house are composed of Random Rubble Masonry, brought to courses. Hammer-dressed stones are laid in layers of equal height. If smaller stones are encountered, then two or three stones are stacked one above another to obtain the height of the course in which it is placed. The result is visually pleasing, with many narrow courses. The raised ribbon mortar treatment was perhaps a later restoration.

923814 Road 92, Zorra

A classic Gothic Revival arch-top window compliments the north facade, complete with a flattened segmental arched stone lintel. Three decorative brick chimneys have survived time & elements. The original banded fish scale patterned slate roof has been maintained. Glass lightning rods still provide protection today.

In high Gothic Revival fashion, fancy barge boards once ornamented the McKay stone house, in a scrolling lacy cutwork pattern.

An elaborate wood finial at the gable peak formerly extended above the roof line & it defines the style. The original open front porch with bell-cast roof was once ornamented by decorative corbels, painted in contrasting colours. The original front door on the east elevation was closed in at some point, making the primary entrance on the north side.



2022 east elevation

924196 Road 92, Zorra

Location: Lot 25 West
Concession 6,
West Zorra

Architectural style:
Ontario Farmhouse
Gothic Revival

Notable features:
Coursed Square
Rubble Masonry

Construction date:
1866

Original owner:
James Innes, 1814-
1875

Stone Mason:
James Innes, 1814-
1875

Demolished: between
2010-2015



circa 1970 west elevation
Brooksdale Tweedmuir Histories

924196 Road 92, Zorra

In the year 1843, Alexander Innes (1819-1905) of Aberdeenshire, Scotland; came out to Canada and returned the same year. He must have been favourably impressed with this new country. The next year he came to West Zorra, bringing with him, his widowed mother, Isobel Taylor Innes (1781-1862), his sister, Mary (1809-1877), and three brothers, James (1814-1875), William (1821-1888) & Gordon (1825-1895). Alexander Innes was to eventually to build a stone house at 356578 35th Line, Zorra.

James & William Innes settled on the west lot of 25, Con. 6, in 1846. Their mother lived with them & kept house. The brothers were blacksmiths. They built a blacksmith shop near the Brooksdale sideroad. Back of the shop, they built a log house at the bend of the stream.

In 1856, James married Isobel Kerr (1828-1907), a native of Aberdeen. They lived in the log house until, over two years, they built a stone house, which they completed in 1866. The Inneses later moved the blacksmith shop and attached it to the stone house. In 1875, James was killed in an accident in Stratford. He was 61 years old. They had only one daughter, Mary Ann (1858-1947), who married James Gibb in 1878. The couple took ownership of the stone house, after the death of her father. The farm remained in the Gibb family until 2004, over 150 years.

Embro Centennial and Zorra Old Boys and Girls Reunion, 1858-1958



William Innes – 1821-1888

Many pioneering families that settled in Zorra had the same surnames. To differentiate, nicknames were adopted. James Innes was known as 'Chronickle Innes' & his brother, William was known as 'Muckle Innes'.

924196 Road 92, Zorra

The Innes Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house façade is an example of coursed square rubble masonry. Stones are chisel-dressed into an almost square shape and arranged in courses, with the height of stones in each course kept equal, with even mortar joints. Plaster of Paris is still in evidence, waterproofing the mortar. The rear west elevation is comprised of coursed random rubble masonry, with smaller stones supporting undressed large stones, filled with a generous compliment of mortar. Large windows are in the six-over-six pane pattern, true of the period. A unique narrow window on the west façade, lights the upstairs. Lintels and window sills are quarried limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys.



circa 1970 west elevation
West Zorra Tweedmuir Histories

924196 Road 92, Zorra

2007 north elevation
photograph, Doug A. Huntley



The tracery gothic arched window in the front gable has been framed by shaped stones fashioned to highlight the curve. The original roof may have been wood shake shingles, though a steel roof prevailed at some point.

The Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse was not complete without decorative wood trim to accent the gable, this ornamentation was known as barge board or gingerbread. The Innes house maintained lacy trim until the 1970s with an elaborate finial extending above & below the front gable peak.

A charming closed portico shelters the front door, perhaps a later addition. A stately line of maple trees flanking the driveway were planted by the original Innes family.