



The house is located at 2482 McDonald Road, Elmvale, Concession 1, South Part Lot 69 former township of Medonte. The home was built in 1857 by Cooper John McDonald with his three sons, Owen, John and Thomas. The family was living in a pre-existing dwelling (circa 1840 and since torn down) while construction of the new house took place.

The McDonald family, Irish Catholic immigrants were the first settlers in

the area. At one time they owned 400 acres. The road has since been named after the family. In addition to the sons there was also a daughter, Isabel. She married Patrick Sullivan who died early in their marriage. After his death, Isabel moved into the family home with her two young children Maggie and Joe, who lived in the house until 1975. The home was subsequently purchased by an American relative and remained in the family until October 2006, when it was purchased by Meredith Firth.

Architectural Features

The house sits high on top of the hill with open space on each side and looks unchanged since it was first built. The site offers neighbours and passerby a glimpse of what the area would have look like in the 1850s.

The house is in excellent condition on its original site, and substantially intact. It is constructed in the dovetail fashion of large square hand hewn logs from trees harvested on the property. The exterior logs are solid with little decay, perhaps protected by insulbrick for 30 years. One log on the north side has been replaced as well as the chinking. Initials can be seen carved into the ends of the logs.

The interior partition walls are tongue and groove boards. The floors are tongue and groove planks. The foundation walls are full field stone, at least two feet thick.

There are two original outbuildings still standing, as well as a bank barn foundation of stone and cordwood masonry.

There was a summer kitchen at the rear; this has been replaced with a new kitchen addition.

There was also once a lumber camp on the north end of the property. From this, Cooper John McDonald made barrels.

Owen McDonald had an agency for the sale of fruit trees with the W.C. Lawrence Co. of Guelph. An agreement signed in 1876 allowed Owen a 25% commission on sales of trees to Hillsdale or Lafontaine. Mrs. McDonald bought a standard pear tree from Chase Brothers in 1982 for 75 cents. Plum trees located next to the house are still producing good fruit.

Designated Features

Characteristics and Features worthy of designation and protection are:

- Solid exterior logs;
- Interior partition of tongue and groove boards;
- Floors of tongue and groove planks;
- Foundation walls of field stone and mortar.