

LAKE LAWN  
376 NELLES ROAD NORTH  
1846

1.0        History

This house was built in 1846 by John Adolphus Nelles, son of the original U.E.L. settler. Adolphus, a widower with four small children married Helen Sumner in 1845 and built Lake Lawn for his family. After his death his wife lived there for many years and the house then passed to her youngest daughter who died in 1938, and then to her granddaughter and great granddaughter.

It was named Lake Lawn because the pasture stretched from the house to the lake. While the house was being built Helen Sumner planted twelve pine trees of which three remain.

When Flora (Nelles) Manson and her family moved into Lake Lawn in 1906 they decided to modernize the house which had originally been heated by stoves. Fireplaces were installed in the library and the bedroom above it and three casement windows were added. The library door was removed and changed into an archway. Hardwood floors covered some of the original flooring which was pitted, and the kitchen ceiling was encased in cedar to prevent the milk-washed ceilings between the beams from dropping constantly. The old front porch was replaced by the present one.

In the 1920's electricity and water were installed. In the 1950's the cold pantry between the dining room and kitchen were remodeled and turned into a kitchen.

Several pieces of the original furniture are still in the house including a few simple things made by Adolphus. The woodwork around the kitchen fireplace is attributed to him. Some of the more elaborate furnishings belonged to Flora and William Manson who brought them from Peterborough where they had lived previously. A few pieces come from other sources. The portrait of the little girl in the dining room is Flora Nelles, aged 6, and was painted by Nathaniel Bell, a relative, who did several family portraits.

The draperies in the dining room, library and upstairs hall, as well as much of the upholstery in the library were woven by Harold B. Burnham, brother of the present owner, Mary Burnham.

For the early history of the Nelles family, see 'Annals of the Forty', Vol. 6.

2.0 Architectural Description

2.1 General Description

The house is located on 1.43 hectares (3.54ac) of land on the south-east corner of Lake Street and Nelles Road. The two storey brick house laid in a Common and Flemish Bond with stone foundation was originally a rectangular shape in plan but subsequent additions gave it an L-shape.

The low pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has two inside end chimneys and a rear inside chimney. The roof trim, made up of a plain box cornice, frieze and soffit, has bracket pairings occurring at approximate four foot intervals.



2.2 West Elevation

The front west elevation is symmetrical in shape with a three bay Flemish Bond facade. The double hung sash windows contain 12 panes and are covered by storm windows and are trimmed with flat arch brick work overhead and black louvered shutters on the sides. The main entrance is composed of a four panel single door, with a rectangular transom and side lights framed by paneled pilasters. A one tier, 5 bay, verandah covers the entranceway with a shed style roof (the original had a deck).



**Detail of front entrance**



### 2.3 South Elevation

The south elevation is laid in Common Bond displaying five differently styled windows. The upper left window is of a double casement design with eight small panes over eight larger panes. The lower left window is square in shape with three double hung sash windows each 10 panes over 4. The upper right is rectangular shaped with double hung sash (6 over 6) as is the lower right. Below this is a small window for the basement. They all have a flat arch of radiating voussoirs.



**Details of windows**





#### 2.4 East Elevation

The rear (east) elevation, half concealed by an addition, also displays a Common Bond facade with a variety of window styles. There are three rectangular double hung sash windows, 6 over 6. One, with louvered shutters, was originally the rear doorway. There is also a wooden cellar entrance with a cement foundation. This appears to be a replacement for what was originally a bulkhead type entrance.



Detail of rear elevation



2.5 North Elevation

The north facade was also laid in Common Bond but has only four windows as opposed to five for the south elevation. On the left side are two 12 pane windows. The sash are double hung with 6 panes over 6 with the upper window still having one shutter in place. The upper right window is new, being made up of only one pane of glass and not having a flat arch of radiating voussoirs. There is also a small basement window on this side of the house.

### 3.0 Building Additions

There were two additions to the 'Lake Lawn' home. The first was laid in two floors of the same bond as the house and also has flat arches of radiating voussoirs over the windows and doors. The roof, however, has gables ends with an unbracketed box cornice and a single end chimney. The addition is shorter than the house and has smaller windows. The second addition had a gabled roof but was even shorter (one floor) and was made of wood with even smaller windows. It was originally used as a summer kitchen but is now used as a storage room.

**Building Evaluation Sheet**

**Name** Lake Lawn  
**Location** 376 NELLES ROAD NORTH

Reference Number 04

<b>A Architecture</b>		<b>Evaluation</b>
1 Style	Good Example of Regency Style	
2 Construction		
3 Age	1846	
4 Architect / Builder	Unknown	
5 Design	Many arch details windows, doors, eaves, trim, unique entrance door	
6 Interior		
<b>B History</b>		
7 Person	John Adolphus Nelles/ Helen Summer	
8 Event	None known	
9 Context	Nelles family importance	
<b>C Environment</b>		
10 Continuity	Establishes dominant character	
11 Setting	Large treed lot	
12 Landmark	Conspicuous and familiar structure	
<b>D Usability</b>		
13 Compatibility	Single family home	
14 Adaptability		
15 Public	Not applicable	
16 Services	Need work on services/finish	
17 Cost	Costly to replace	
<b>E Integrity</b>		
18 Site	Original site	
19 Alterations	Very few alterations	
20 Condition	Sound but needs improvement	

Evaluated by Grimsby LACAC  
 Recommendation Designate pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Date: January 22, 1986