

Windmill Farm - - Brookville

Easterbrook homestead pioneer home of 1835

Windmill Farm is the name given by Patrick and Helen Redgrave to their lovely old Colonial stone house on the hill in Brookville. The towering windmill still turns high over one of the most historic homes in Nassagaweya. The Redgraves have lived in the beautiful old house for 10½ years.

They came by sailing ship in 1831 with their eight children, four girls and four boys.

Elias and Joan built a large frame house across the road (now the Guelph Line) from the Windmill Farm. Part of that house can still be seen as the old Nassagaweya Township Hall.

Just 22

Thomas, then just 22 years of age, built the stone house for Hannah who lived at the time opposite Ebenezer Church. Hannah was born in 1818 in Yorkshire and came to Canada in 1832. Thomas and Hannah also had eight children, Elizabeth, John, Ann, Mary, Elias, Jan, Thomas and Hannah.

An enterprising young man, Thomas ended up with 400 acres of land in Nassagaweya and built a sawmill in 1847 on what is today conservation land at the north east end of Campbellville.

He also opened a store on the south east corner of the Brookville property in 1852 as well as a hotel which burned shortly after being built. He operated the post office from his store.

Original name

Brookville was originally called Easterbrook, Thomas being its first reeve and treasurer. In 1853 he bought a farm in Burlington and his son John operated it. Thomas moved there shortly afterward, still keeping the stone house. The Historical Atlas of Halton County shows him as owner in 1877.

The house was operated as a hotel by Henry Stingle around 1865. Perhaps during this period it was leased to him by Thomas Easterbrook. During this time of carriage travel between Guelph and Burlington along the Guelph Line there were many inns and hotels en route.

Georgian

The style of the house is typical Georgian with a Loyalist neo-classic door and two windows on either side downstairs. There are five windows across the front upstairs. The windows upstairs have 20 panes and downstairs, 24. They are offset with black shutters.

A drive-in shed to the side of the house is now enclosed and is used as a studio by Helen. One summer kitchen

has been converted to a cosy family room and furnished with a pine harvest table and open hutch. A straight back ash rocker sits in front of a Franklin stove. Behind the stove are a collection of horse brasses. The narrow maple board floor is partially covered with a large oval braided rug.

Behind the family room is a second summer kitchen and above is a big room under the sloped eaves where the hired help slept.

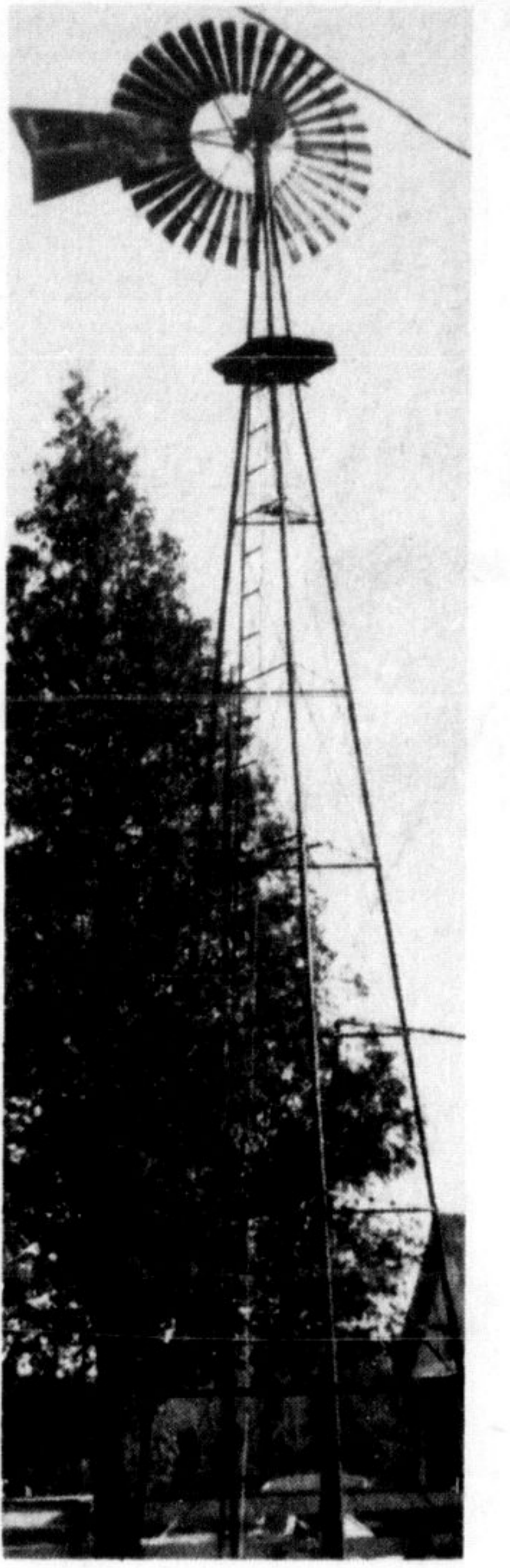
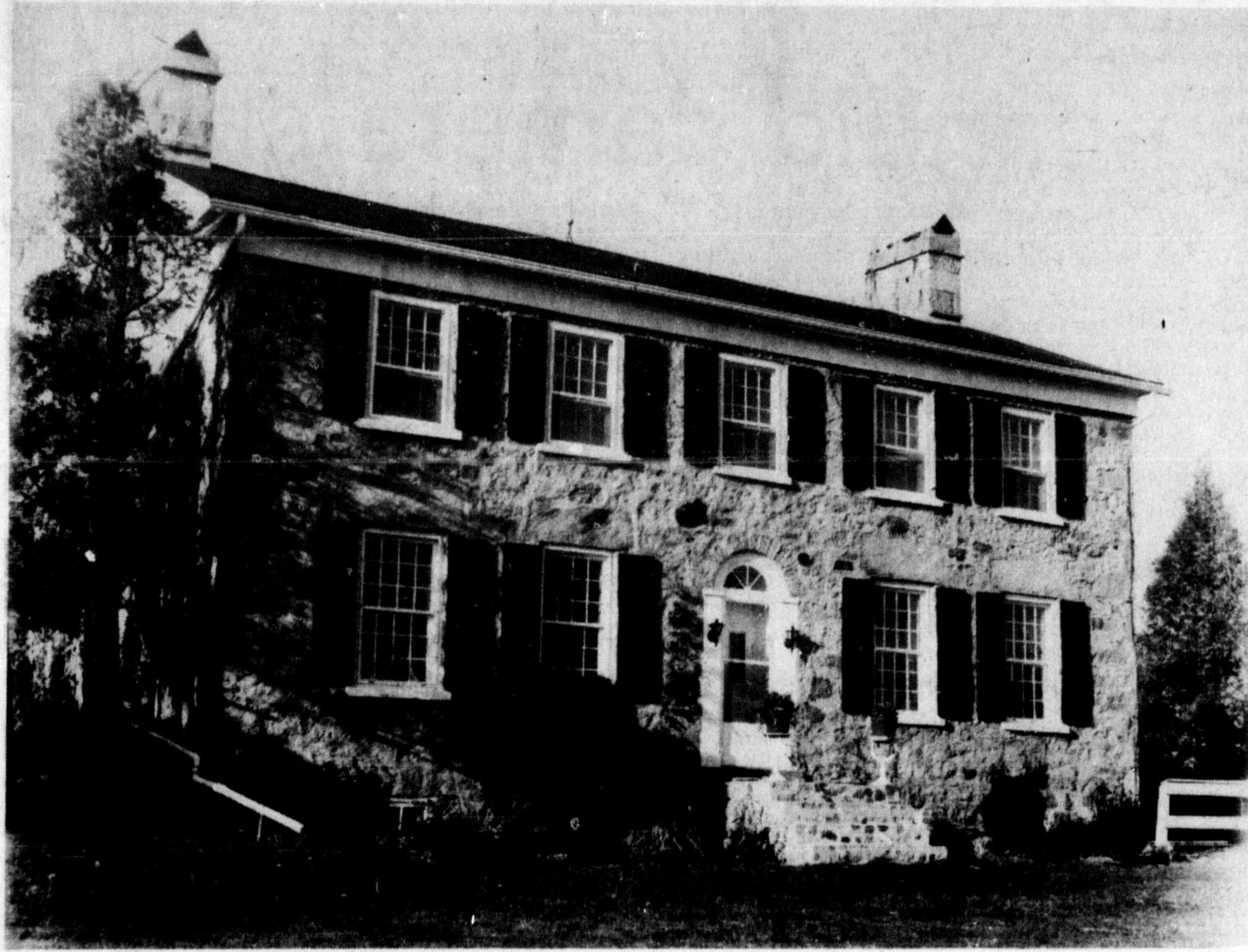
Fireplaces

In its early days the house was heated entirely by fireplaces and there were seven in all. In true Loyalist style the house is a centre-hall plan. It has a straight narrow stairway that has remained the same over the years. It extends from a box-like entrance hall. The implication of the box-hall is that it doesn't run the full length of the house but stops short part way. In the case of this house it is to accommodate the basement stairs under the back of the stairway. A very short door is used as entrance. The stair-rail is light with straight

squared balusters and a small simple newel post.

The doors throughout the house are not over six feet in height. The windows are deep-set in many of the rooms with 14 inch wide pine boards

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BUILT IN 1835 by Thomas Easterbrook, the Colonial stone house in Brookville is Georgian architecture. Brookville was originally named Easterbrook after its first reeve and treasurer

Thomas. It is understood the house was used as a carriage stop years later. Helen and Patrick Redgrave have owned the historic house since 1964.



BOOT AND BONNET chest of pine dating back to 1870 sits in the box-hall of the Redgrave home.

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HELEN AND PATRICK REDGRAVE enjoy the wide log-burning fireplace in the centre of the large living room. The room is furnished with a Victorian Chippendale settee of soft fern velvet

and the drapes in the entrance doorway are of wool patchwork. The wall behind the fireplace is pine.



FAMILY ROOM was once a summer kitchen. It is furnished with a pine harvest table and open hutch. The straight back ash rocker sits in front of a Franklin stove. The narrow maple board floor is partially covered with a large oval braided rug.



KITCHEN is narrow with wide bare pine board floors. At one time the kitchen was two small bedrooms.



STAIRWAY above is in true Loyalist style for a centre-hall plan. It is straight and narrow and extends from the box-hall. Upper right are a child's desk and cane bottom chair and lower right is a pine dresser with walnut pulls with art nouveau influence.

