

# Fifth Line house designed by Arthur, a famous architect

A man who campaigned for half a century to save Toronto's soul was active in Halton Hills in 1945.

Eric Arthur, a well-known architect who died in 1982 at age 84 was the designer of a Fifth Line house on the Beer homestead. It is now listed for sale by Century 21.

Mr. Arthur, a former professor of architecture at the University of Toronto, worked hard to convince politicians to preserve the best from the past and to also build for the future.

He was author or co-author of 11 works on Canadiana. One of the books, Toronto, No Mean City, helped to save Toronto's architectural heritage. As an advisor to the city, he persuaded politicians in the 1960s to restore St. Lawrence Hall and Market. He was also chairman of the committee that selected the unusual futuristic design for the new Toronto City Hall.

The architect was honored many times for his devotion to his profession. He was given the Order of Canada, Canada Council Medal for outstanding cultural achievement, Centennial Medal and Toronto's Award of Merit for public service.

Below is a story on the Fifth Line house, courtesy of the Beer family:

The Beer farm was established by Mr. Beer's family who immigrated from Hungary. The present home was built in 1945-46 to replace the original farmhouse which was destroyed by fire. The house was designed by Eric Arthur, professional adviser in the 1957 Toronto City Hall competition.

At the entranceway to the farm is a Transylvanian gate, hand carved and painted by Mr. T. Beer's mother, Mrs. Paul Beer, an accomplished artist who worked in several media. The gate was constructed in 1950 and is a typical Hungarian farm gate depicting the farm's interests; in this case, cattle, turkeys, and dachshunds.

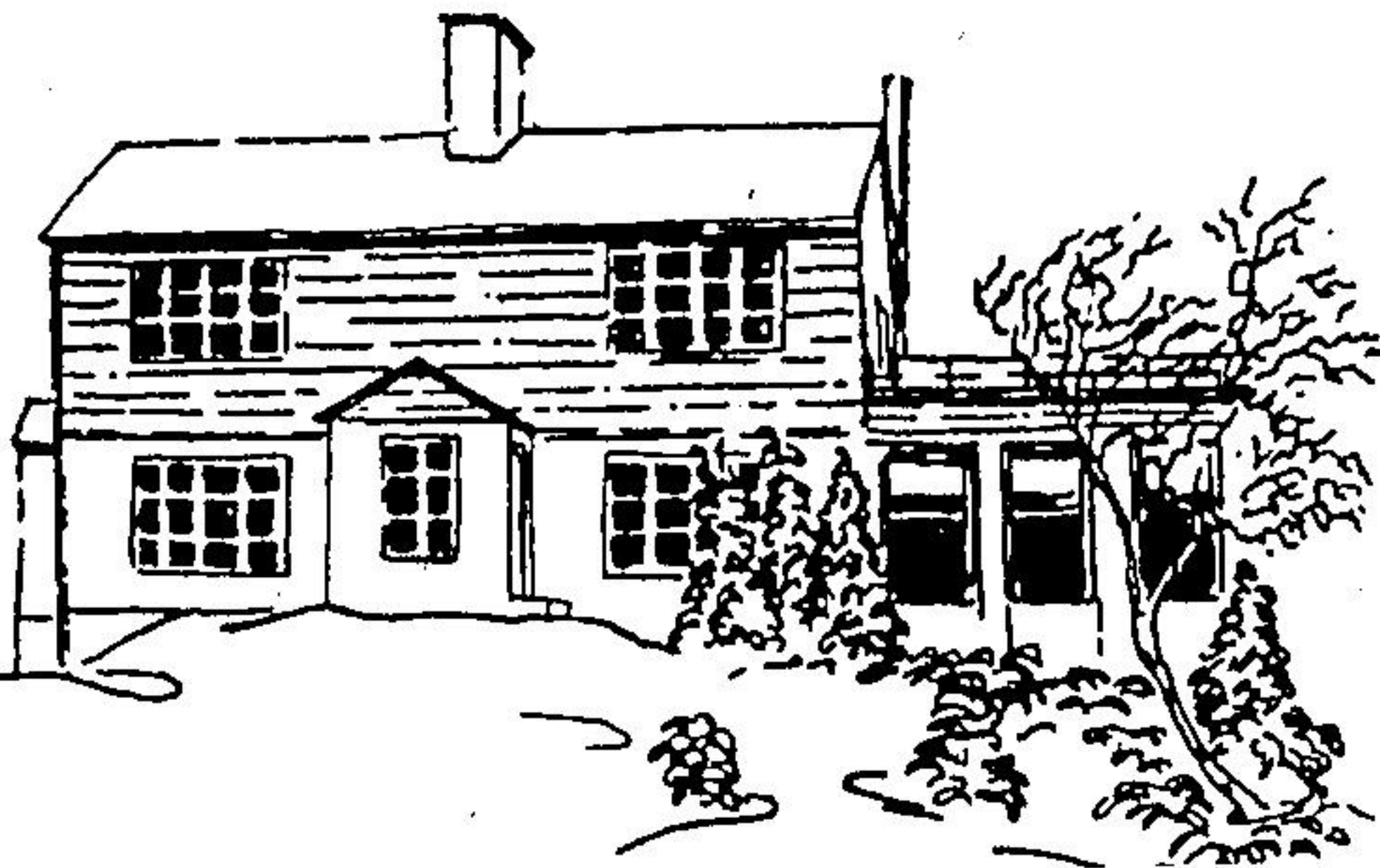
As you move through the living room, notice the two games tables, one at each end of the room; the Hungarian piano; and the travelling chair inlaid with ivory circa 1400. Over the fireplace is a display of

Czechoslovakian, German and Royal Doulton glass. On the table in front of the fireplace is a lovely cloth embroidered by Mr. Beer's grandmother. Beside the fireplace is a water colour by Mrs. Paul Beer portraying the view from the front door of the home. Around the room are several paintings by Mrs. Paul Beer and Jozsef Egry, a well-known Hungarian painter. The writing desk in the vestibule, a gift to Mrs. T. Beer, was designed and constructed by her children and son-in-law John Barlow from Guilford. The basswood carving of Mr. and Mrs. T. Beer's two daughters was fashioned by Mrs. Paul Beer.

Before ascending the stairs, note the decorative hand painted furniture in the front entrance. Of particular interest in the upstairs hall is a burlap wall hanging by Mrs. Paul Beer depicting, in fantasy form, the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. T. Beer. In each bedroom as several paintings by either Mrs. Paul Beer or Jozsef Egry. A highlight of the den are two reverse glass paintings. Be sure to look for the clock cabinet depicting the marriage of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

The large painting in the dining room as well as the decorative ceiling design in the sun porch are by Mrs. Paul Beer. Also in the sun porch in an attractive display of hand painted Hungarian pottery. The bubble glass work in the door leading to the kitchen is the work of Mrs. T. Beer. The kitchen furnishings were made to Mrs. Paul Beer's specifications and were painted by her. The two hand-painted plates on the wall are from Hungary.

At the foot of the stairs to the lower level is a near-life size statue of a shepherd holding a lamb which was carved by Mrs. Paul Beer from a lovely old linden tree that stood on the family farm. Also on the lower level are more examples of burlap wall hangings hand-painted furniture, and several pieces of pottery depicting events in Mr. and Mrs. T. Beer's courtship. As you leave, you will see a hand-painted barrel top which completes the uniqueness of this home.



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