

# Couple will lose their century-old farmhouse to dump

By JANE MULLER

Hurt and shocked are the words used by Cindy Reid to describe her feelings Friday, just hours after learning her family would lose their century farm to a landfill site.

She and her husband Mike were to celebrate their 11th wedding anniversary that day. Instead they were reeling from the effects of "having the rug pulled out from under our feet," Cindy said.

The couple bought the First Line property three years ago after a two-year search for the home of their dreams. Since that time they've been restoring the 3,000 square-foot farmhouse which had been in the Ford family for more than 100 years.

"We love this house. It's just like a little paradise here," Cindy explained while trying to fight back tears.

The couple discovered their new home was on Milton's candidate dump site after they had sold their

house in town and were set to move. They immediately joined their neighbours in the fight against the dump.

The Reeds were aware of the dump issue but didn't realize they'd moved into the eye of the storm.

"Some people don't know anything about it (the controversy over the landfill site's location). We knew we were the second choice after two environmental studies. We were almost positive they wouldn't put it here," Cindy said.

She and Mike went ahead with their planned restoration work which is "nearly complete," Cindy said. "You don't just put your life on hold."

"We thought we would live here the rest of our lives."

The result of the 20-month environmental assessment hearing shattered their plans. But by Sunday evening, there was a glimmer of hope. Cindy is anticipating some

action on the part of the Boyne-Britannia Citizens Group after they meet this week. She didn't want to discuss what their plans would be however the pain felt last Friday had eased somewhat.

Last week she had said, "I don't know if we can live through it (the appeal process)." Cindy blames the threat of her home being swallowed by a landfill site for her stomach ulcers.

She recalled the late Amy Tomosky who succumbed to cancer last November. Mrs. Tomosky headed the citizens group to fight the dump which now could be the scene from the back of the heritage home she and her husband Walter spent 17 years restoring. It was to have been their retirement home.

"All that worry and stress got the best of her. She spent at least the last five years fighting the dump and she died doing it."

The Reeds have been told their house won't be destroyed if expropriation goes ahead. Its historic significance will save it from the wrecker's ball. They are concerned, however that the government won't offer them the same price for the property which this current sellers' market could bear. Cindy estimates the property is worth about \$650,000.

In addition to being "99 per cent sure the dump would go to Burlington" the couple had another reason for going ahead with their meticulous restoration. The farmhouse which features Gothic overtones had to be insulated and the condition of rooms like the 500 square-foot kitchen made it "unlivable" without some renovation.



Cindy and Mike Reid planned to spend last week celebrating their wedding anniversary but instead they mourned the dump decision which will cost them lose their century-old farmhouse.

Cindy says they would have done much more to the house if it hadn't been located on the candidate dump site. As it is, they spent a year and a half just stripping the woodwork in the kitchen. The outdoor shutters were each taken apart, stripped, and reassembled.

She even took care to preserve some of the rare plants nurtured by the farm's original owners. When she wasn't working as a pet groomer, or home renovator, Cindy spent time at the library researching the home and its architectural features.

Cindy estimates she and Mike spent more than 100,000 hours

working on the house.

When she and neighbours testified at the dump hearing Cindy said information like that fell on insensitive ears.

"It was humiliating being examined and cross-examined by lawyers. There we were spilling our guts and knowing they didn't really care. The worst part was that they couldn't know how we really felt."

Members of the citizens group were expecting to plan a celebration after Friday's announcement. They had anticipated a win -- the dump would be at the Burlington site. Now they'll be regrouping, possibly to face another battle.

## Council thinks of appeal . . .

from COUNCILLORS on page 1

The mayor, stressing that he did not wish to tip his hand on strategy, said he was "leaning toward appealing" the decision. There are two appeal routes; the provincial cabinet and the courts.

"Arguments can be made for and against both of the processes," Mr. Krantz noted. Pausing, he added, "the last of the three options is accepting it."

Councillor Colin Best warned that the true landfill site boundaries are the roads surrounding the dump, not the 246 acres within earmarked for garbage disposal.

He was also suspicious of the fact a rail line lies just west of the property. It could be used to transport Toronto garbage to an expanded site, he warned. Or, Milton could become "an interim site for Peel" while that municipality sear-

ches for its own dump site.

The total area bounded by Lower Base Line, Highway 25, First Line and Britannia Rd. is three times as large as the proposed dump.

Mr. Best said he is "quite upset" with statements in the decision document. "They basically say (regional consultant) Peter Walker is out to lunch."

The councillor also took issue with the dump's position on the outskirts of town alongside the major highway running up from south Halton. "It's bad enough we've got a prison (Maplehurst) at one end of town. Now we've got a dump at the other."

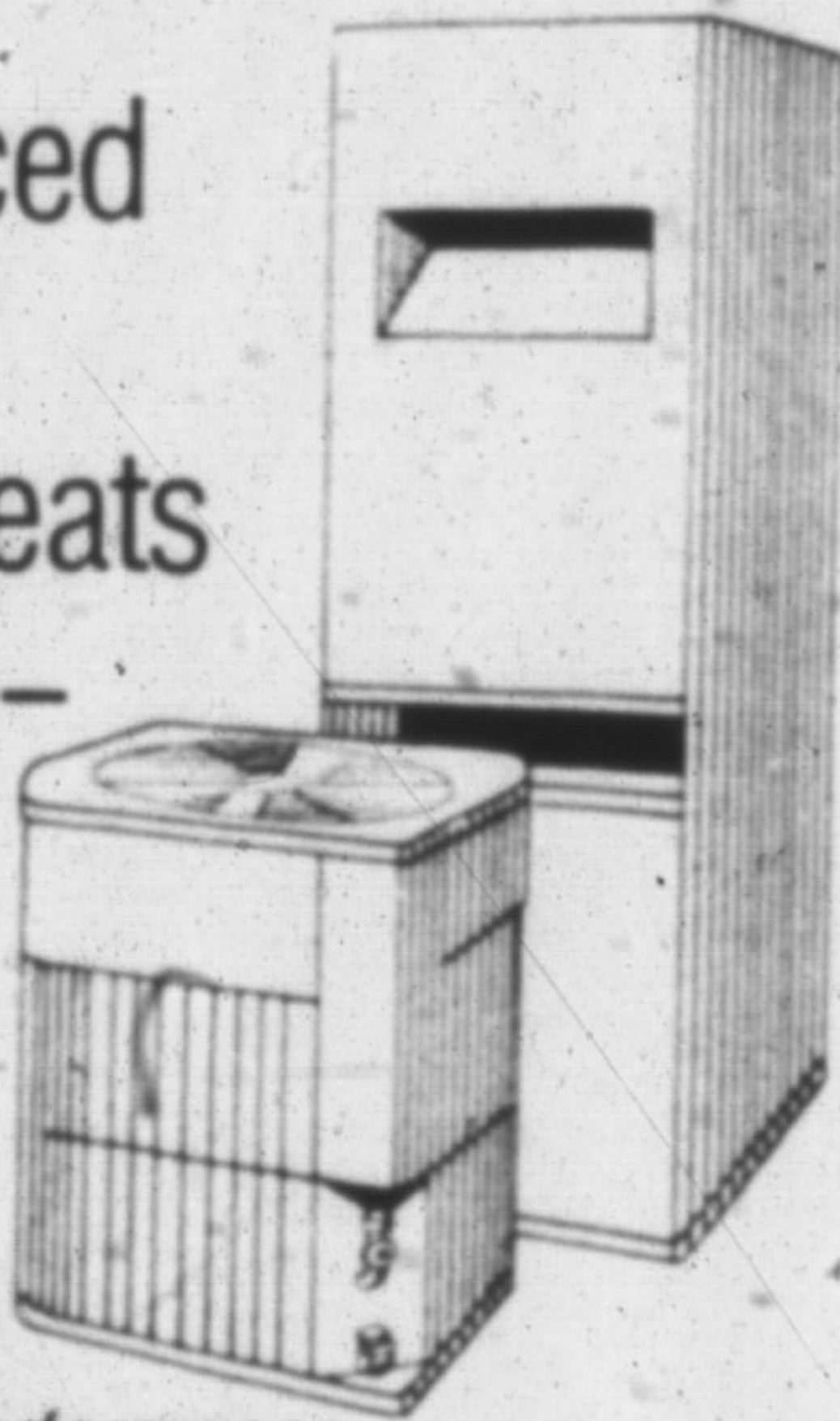
The only reason Milton was even considered for a site was because "Burlington basically blackmailed the region," by forcing the issue when it appeared they would have the only candidate site, he said.

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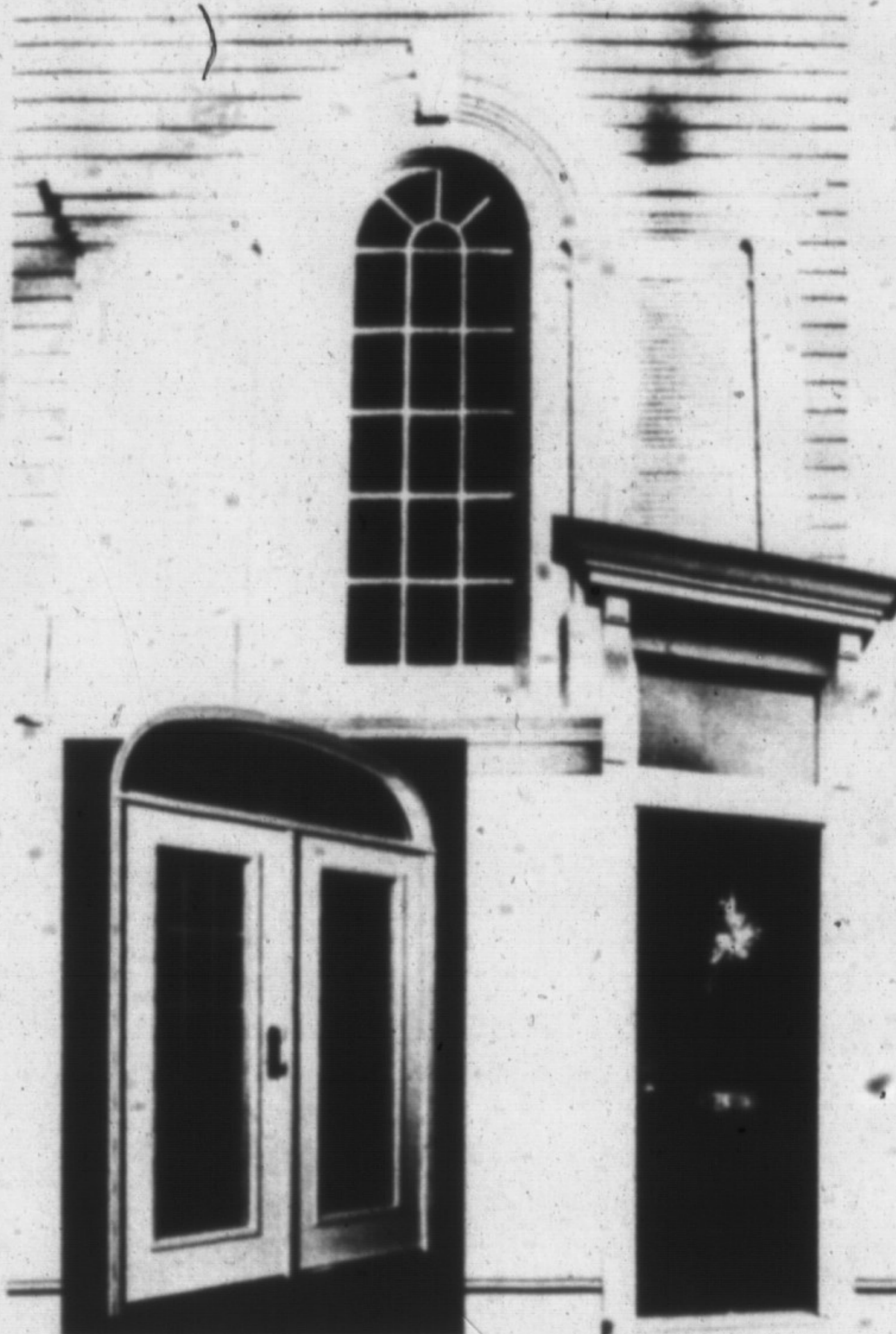
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