

A.J. Casson painting of Unionville House goes on auction block

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

An A.J. Casson painting of a Unionville house goes on the auction block in Toronto Monday.

Mr. Casson, who was the last living member of the famous Group of Seven, painted the 24 by 23-inch oil on canvas in 1976.

Valued at between \$50,000 and \$70,000, the painting, called 'A House in Unionville,' will be auctioned by Sotheby's in association with Ritchie's Auctioneers & appraisers at 288 King St. East.

Mr. Casson painted several houses in Markham when he visited the Unionville home of fellow group member Fred Varley.

"Mr. Casson painted small towns in Ontario, including those in this area," said John Ryerson, director of Unionville's Varley Art Gallery. "Small towns was the theme. He kept coming back to it."

The artistic appeal of Unionville continues today, Mr. Ryerson said.

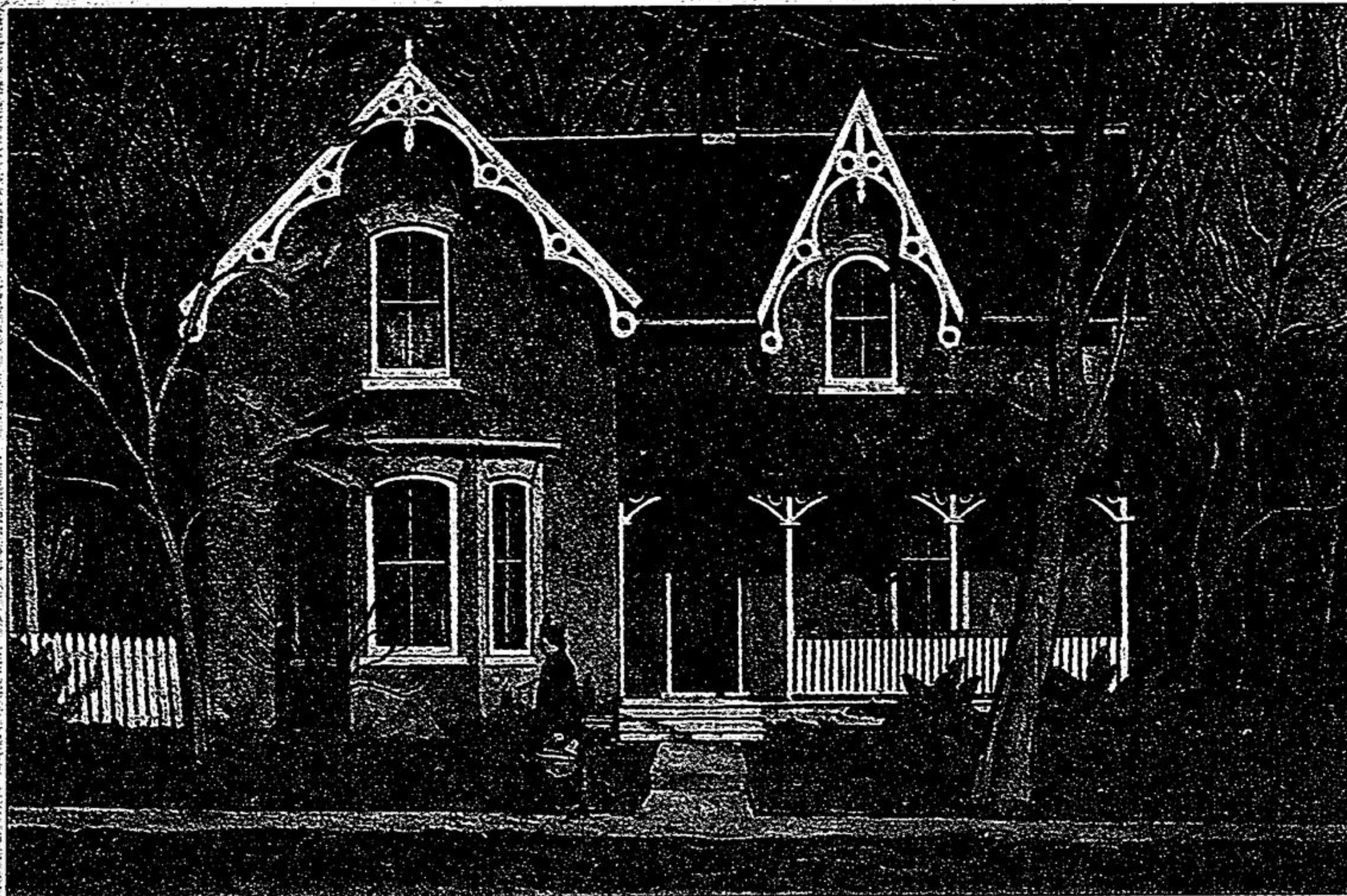
The subject of the painting is at 147 Main St. It was built in 1875 by Josiah Hall for Christopher Chant, a cabinet maker and undertaker. The Township of Markham bought the house in 1944 for \$1,800 and used it as municipal offices until 1953.

"The building is an outstanding example of the Gothic revival style with its front gables, one-storey bay window and one-storey veranda with finely tuned wooden posts," Markham senior planner Michael Seaman said.

Group of Seven paintings remain popular among collectors. "As well, Canadian art prices are rising," Mr. Ryerson said.

A House in Unionville is too expensive for the gallery to bid upon. However, it would be pleased to accept the painting as a donation, Mr. Ryerson said.

The Varley Gallery has accepted more than 50 art pieces this year, including two by Group of Seven members. It now has 300 pieces, most of them in storage.



Group of Seven member A.J. Casson painted this Unionville house during a visit with Fred Varley.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Scott Pearl

Mr. Kelly Jamieson, General Manager of Unionville Motors, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Scott Pearl to the position of General Sales Manager. Scott brings many years of dealership management experience and will be responsible for all aspects of the Unionville Motors Sales and Marketing team. Since moving to Markham with his family in 1981, Scott has been active in the community both supporting and coaching soccer, baseball and minor hockey. Scott would like to take the opportunity to say hello and welcome both previous customers, acquaintance and friends to the dealership. Please join us in welcoming Scott to the Unionville Motors team.



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