

# Christopher Dresser House

192 County Road 14, Kingsville, Ontario

Date of Construction 1909

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## Chain of Ownership

Type	Date	From	To	Price
Patent	26 Oct 1846	Crown	Canada	
Deed	26-Dec-06	The Canada Co	James C Scarlett	1575
Deed	24-Nov-08	Jas. Scarlett et ux	Chas E. Scarlett	2600
Deed	11-Jan-09	Chs Scarlett et ux	Ezra Everett Thomas	2900
Deed	31-Jan-13	Ezra Thomas	Darius A Cowan	3700
Deed	15-Jan-13	Darius A Cowan	Christopher Dresser	4200
Deed	25-Jul-34	Christopher Dresser and wife	Carl and Mabel Dresser	1 & mortgage
Mortgage	01-May-75	Ridgeway Leasing Ltd	Carl Edwin Dresser & Mabel Anna Dresser	40,000
Deed	01-May-75	Carl Edwin Dresser & Mabel Anna Dresser	Ridgeway Leasing Ltd.	62,127
Life Lease	01-May-75	Ridgeway Leasing Ltd	Carl Edwin Dresser & Mabel Anna Dresser	12,127
Plan	27-Nov-79	Separated 1.57 acres House Lot from Farm		
Plan	26-Aug-92	Added 2 acres house lot for total of 3.57 acres		

The ownership of this property dates to 1846 and is associated with the Canada Company. The Canada Company was incorporated by Charter in the reign of George IV to appropriate lands in Upper and later Lower Canada to those people who represented the King. These lands were known as Crown Lands. Later the Company was given the right to add specified lands which became known as the Clergy Reserves.

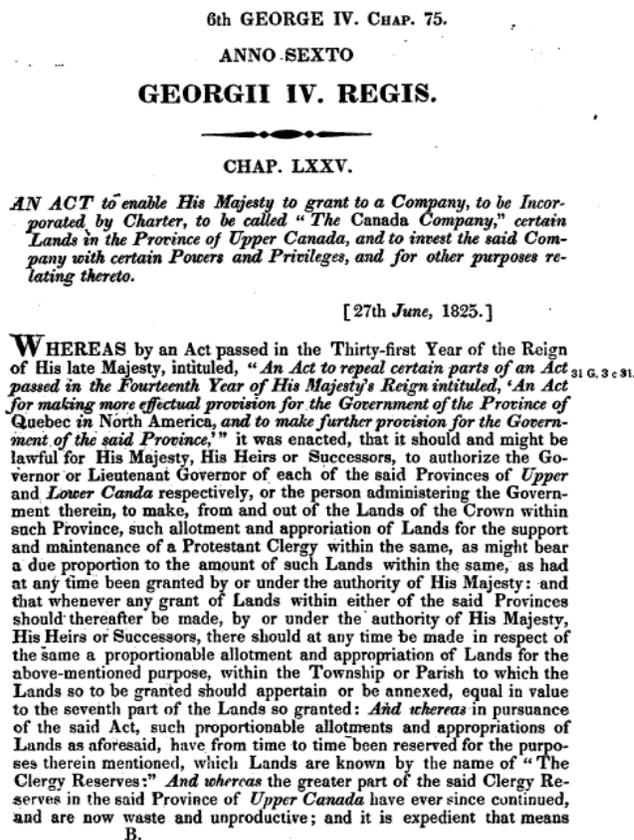


Figure 1- Canada Company Act

This Canada Company became a large land company composed of English capitalists with the power to grant lands to people who were professed Christians who were capable of clearing, cultivating and improving property. These candidates had to provide proof of having obeyed laws and having led an inoffensive life in their former country.

Settlers who did not comply with the Oath of Allegiance which they signed were taken off their property and sent away.

One of the earliest "Settlement Promoters" representing British landowners in the granting of land was Colonel Thomas Talbot. From his military duty as an Officer, he was granted 5,000 Acres of land as a reward for his services. Every family that was accepted was

granted 200 Acres of land, 50 Acres of which was theirs and 150 Acres could remain with him becoming his property in payment for the expense and trouble he went to collecting families and locating them. Dissatisfaction with this situation became clear. Nevertheless, the Canada Company laid out several towns that did become important in Upper Canada. These were Galt, Guelph, Stratford and Goderich.

In Gosfield, a Township in the County of Essex, 24,803 Acres of land had been taken up. It is reported that 5,030 Acres were under cultivation. Considerable draining was needed as the Township was wet. However, much of the land was excellent being covered with maple, ash, oak, beech, black walnut, butternut and chestnut trees. All

these trees were well known in Gosfield. Iron ore was found in the South-East of the Township. A furnace and foundry were in operation from the 1830's.

In Gosfield, there were also two steam gristmills and sawmills, and one grist mill situated on the lakeshore. The Canada Company possessed about 6,000 Acres and the population of the County was 1,338 people.

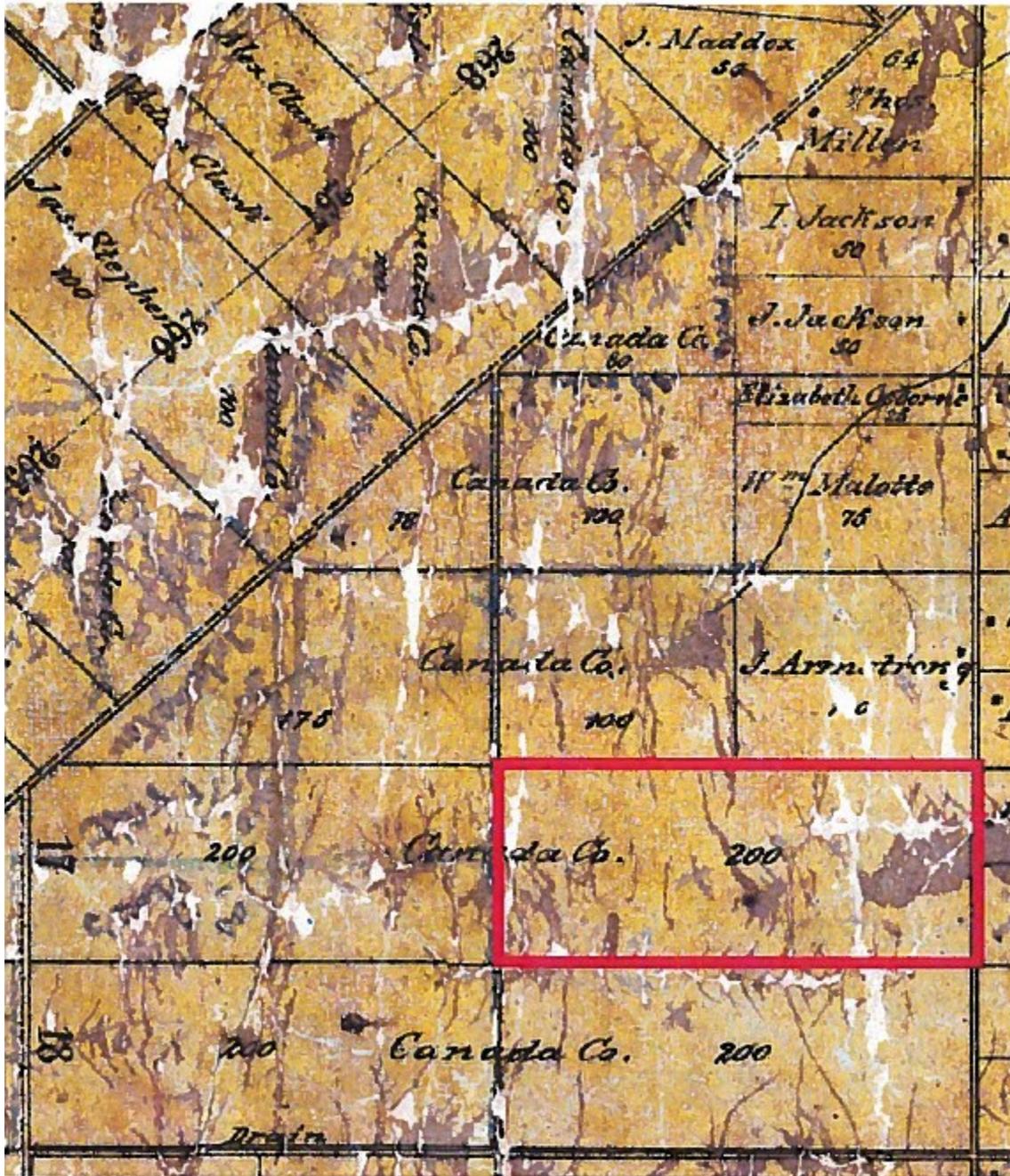


Figure 2 - Concession 8 Lot 17 (1877 Walling Map)

The land at 192 County Road 14 had been patented Crown Land until 1846 when it was granted to the Canada Company and the chain of ownership begins. Records show that the settlement process began in 1895 when James Scarlett, under the auspices of the Canada Company, began to clear the land. In December of 1906, James had cleared 25 Acres of the original 150. A small building was built.

On January 8, 1907, The Canada Company granted the 50 Acres to James and in 1908 James sold the land to his brother Charles. At this point 32 Acres were cleared. In 1909 Charles Scarlett sold to Ezra Everett Thomas and in January 1912 a deed was registered from Ezra Thomas to Darius Cowan. The following year Darius Cowan sold the property to Christopher Dresser. From that time until the 1980's the property remained in the Dresser family.



Figure 3- Crown Patent

# Association with a Person Christopher Dresser

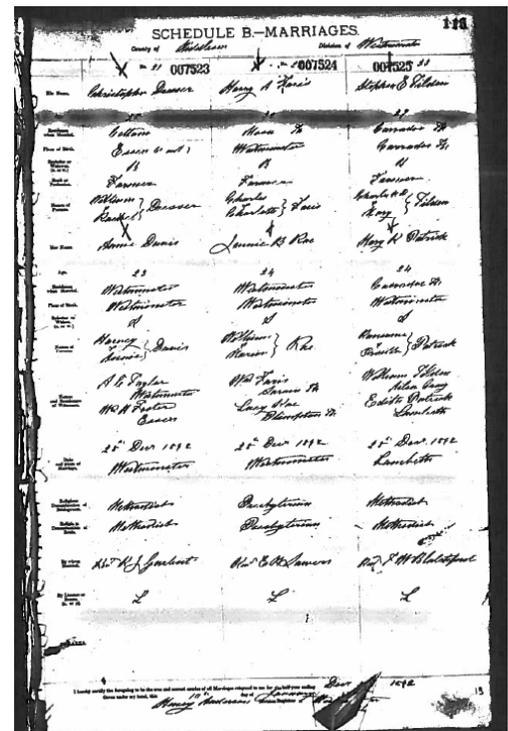
The Dresser family of Mersea Township is one of the oldest families of this section of Essex County. The founder of the name in Mersea Township was George Dresser. Christopher Dresser was the grandson of George. He and his family moved to Gosfield when they bought the property at County Road 14 in 1913.

When Christopher died in 1935 his son Carol and his wife, Mabel, carried on the farming of the land until the 80's.

In November 1979, 1.52 acres were separated as a "House Lot" and in August 1992, two more acres were added to the House Lot making it a total of 3.57 acres.

## Architectural Influences

The home at 192 County Road 14 E bears many features of the Edwardian era, which blossomed by 1892 and lasted until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. It is a 2 ½-storey home with 3 or 4 upstairs bedrooms. It has many windows allowing sunlight in every room and a dormer upstairs that allows light to a small attic. The outside surface of the house is smooth brick and the shape of the house and windows is rectangular. The windows have flat arches and plain stone sills or lentils. White painted wood frames each window. Stone quoins form the exterior corners of the front wall of the house. They are made of rocks and are a different colour than the rest of the all thus giving a decorative appearance. The same rock-faced rusticated quoin forms an arch around



the front door.



The home shows the influence of Edwardian Classicism with its simple balance design, its straight rooflines, its maintenance-free detailing and uncomplicated ornamentation. A touch of the “Craftsman” influence is seen in the inside end chimney and the overhanging eaves. Alterations within the house are evidence of modernization, thus bringing comfort to living. For example, a basement has been dug which increases the space for storage and furnace.

Some of the items which show indications from the Regency Period are the mouldings and paneling on the doors inside the house. Another would be the lock and handle which you can see clearly in the slide.

The unassuming exterior of the house adds to the rural coziness that is evident in the presentation of this house near to its horse coral and open fields.

192 Road 14 E is a fine example of both rural and home conservation and heritage preservation.



