

Basic Detail Report

The Grange House

Date

around 1817; West Wing, 1840s and 1885

Primary Maker

Unknown

Medium

rectangular, two-storey massing, brick construction, Stretcher Bond; exterior foundation wall, stone; five-bay facade of its original block with its central entry under a portico, pediment with oculus window, with twin chimneys at each end; west wing has evenly spaced multi-pane sash windows; main door with semicircular top fan light and rectangular sidelights; roof is a reproduction of the original tin fish scale roof

Description

The Grange was built about 1817 for lawyer and merchant D'Arcy Boulton jr. in an area of exclusive residential estates in the town of York, now Toronto. One of the few such houses to survive, its symmetrical 5-bay façade and central pediment reflect the conservative influence of 18th century British classical tradition. The west wing represents two later additions. One from the 1840s and the other built in 1885 for the new owner, eminent public figure Goldwin Smith. In 1911, through the bequest of his wife Harriet the house became the property of what is now the Art Gallery of Ontario. The Grange was altered several times in the nineteenth century. In the 1840s, likely as a result of a fire, the drawing room was enlarged, several second floor bedrooms were converted into an assembly room and an office area, with a vault added to the west. In the 1880s a library addition was added on, again to the west. A new staircase to the second floor was created and the wooden portico was replaced with a stone one.