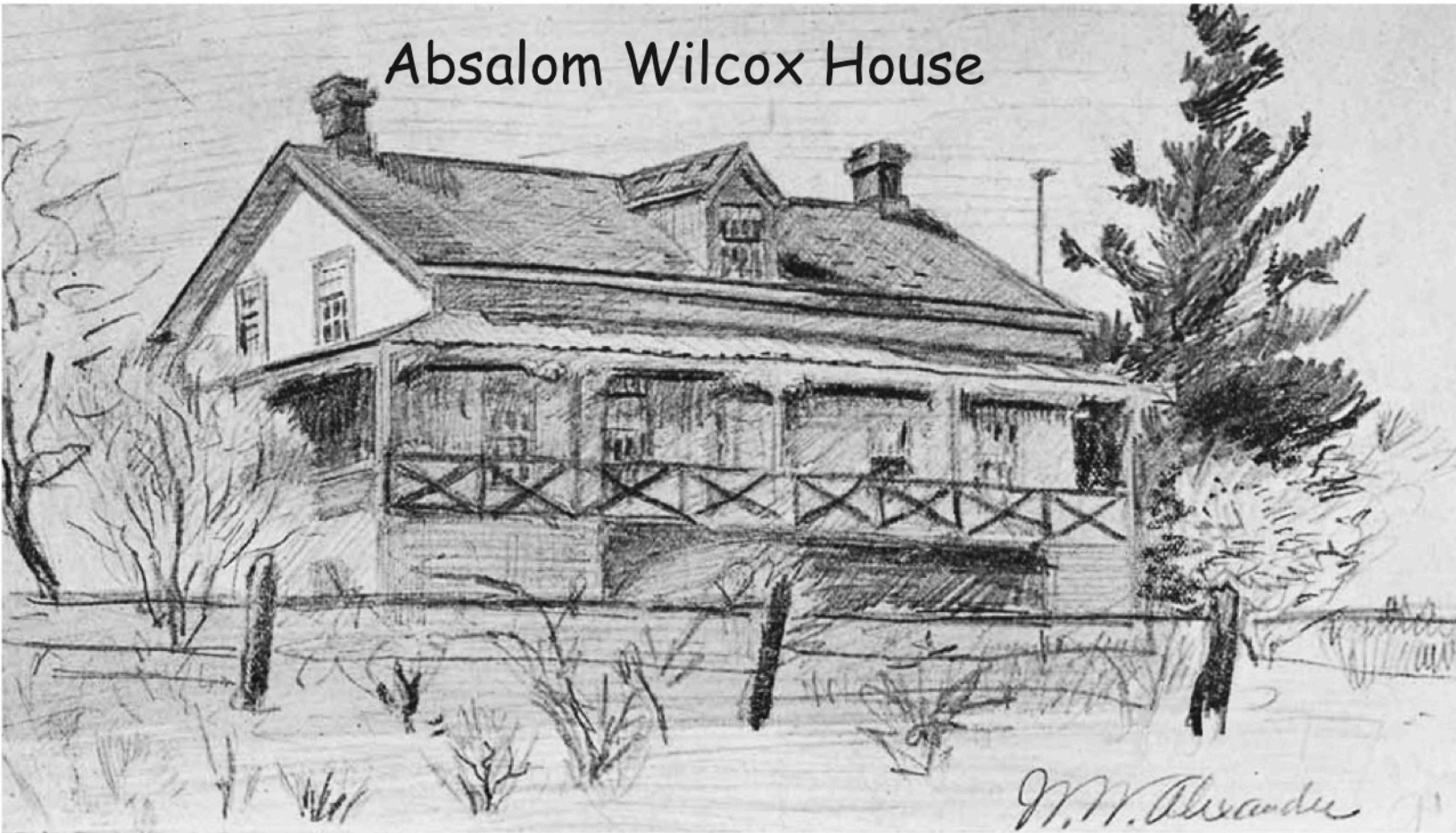


# Absalom Wilcox House



The home of Absalom Wilcox (1765-1841) on Dundas Street, Toronto Township, Peel County, built ca. 1830, sketched about 190 by W.W. Alexander.

There is a strong family oral tradition that a Wilcox hid William Lyon MacKenzie in his home on Dundas St. in 1937. The following is an excerpt from Vol. VI of "The Makers of Canada", page 383.

## MACKENZIE'S ESCAPE

before our pursuers were climbing up the steep ascent almost beside me.

"When I overtook Colonel Lount, he had, I think, about ninety men with him, who were partly armed. We took some refreshment at a friendly farmer's near by. Lount was for dispersing. I proposed that we should keep in a body and make for the United States via the head of Lake Ontario, as our enemies had the steamers; but only sixteen persons went with me. I had no other arms than a single-barrel pistol, taken from Captain Duggan during our Tuesday's scuffle, and we were all on foot. Some of my companions had no weapons at all.

"We made for Humber Bridge, through Vaughan, but found it strongly guarded; then went up the river a long way, got some supper at the house of a farmer, crossed the stream on a foot-bridge, and by two next morning, the eighth, reached the hospitable mansion of a worthy settler on Dundas Street, utterly exhausted with cold and fatigue.<sup>①</sup>

"Blankets were hung over the windows to avoid suspicion, food and beds prepared, and, while the Tories were carefully searching for us, we were sleeping soundly. Next morning (Friday) those who had arms buried them, and after sending to inquire whether a friend a mile below had been dangerously wounded, we agreed to separate and

<sup>①</sup>The house of Absalom Wilcox, who had several sons engaged in the revolt, one of whom was afterwards on Navy Island.