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Centre Wellington

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

FEB 14 2019

RECEIVED

February 1, 2019

Pat Newson  
Managing Director of Community Services  
Township of Centre Wellington  
1 MacDonald Square  
Elora, ON N0B 1S0

Dear Pat:

Please take notice that, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington passed designation by-law 2019-02, designating the property below as a landscape of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29).

**209 Menzies Lane  
(Templin Gardens)  
Fergus, Ontario**

Attached is a copy of the notice of passing which was published in the newspaper on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and the designation by-law which has been registered on title, fulfilling the requirements of the Act. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Mariana Iglesias, MCIP, RPP, CAHP

Encl.

*Copy: Ontario Heritage Trust, 10 Adelaide St. E., Toronto ON M5C 1J3*

**The Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington**

**By-law 2019-02**

A By-law to designate the lands at  
209 Menzies Lane (Templin Gardens)  
to be of cultural heritage value or interest

**Whereas** the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 (the "Act"), as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact By-laws to designate real property including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

**And Whereas** on the advice of the Municipal Heritage Committee, Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known municipally as 209 Menzies Lane (Templin Gardens) and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

**And Whereas** no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington hereby enacts as follows:**

1. The real property municipally known as 209 Menzies Lane and more particularly described in Schedule "A", is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Act*.
2. The reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B".
3. The Township's legal representative is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" in the proper land registry office.
4. Township staff is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the city.
5. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon its final passing.

**Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2019.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor – Kelly Linton

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk – Kerri O'Kane

**Schedule "A"**

Legal Description

Templin Gardens, 209 Menzies Lane, legally described as:  
PART LT U PL 239 DES as PART 1, PLAN 61R-11476; TOWNSHIP OF CENTRE WELLINGTON

PIN: 71398-0352 (LT)

## Schedule "B"

### Description of Property

Templin Gardens is a public garden owned by the Township of Centre Wellington. It is located along the north bank of the Grand River in the former Town of Fergus. The tiered garden extends from street level at Menzies Lane down the limestone gorge to the water's edge. The Templin Gardens contains paved trails which connect to the Township's Templin Garden Trail to the west and the Riverfront Trail to the east. The approximately 0.08 hectare (0.21 acre) property represents the core of what was a large private garden designed and built by the Templin family. The limestone steps leading into the gorge, the tiered stone parapet walls, and the stone archway are all significant components that remain from the original Gardens.

Templin Gardens can be divided into two key areas. The first area, found at the top of the limestone gorge, is generally comprised of more modern features installed as part of a refurbishment project in the early 1980s that included curvilinear pathways of interlocking pavers and limestone trails. The majority of the landscaped garden beds are found within this area. The second area of the garden is comprised of the tiered balconies which descend the side of the gorge surrounded by limestone walls with cut stone stairs connecting the various levels. A stone archway is located at this level or tiered area before a series of cut stone stairs descends down to the water's edge. An archway frames a vista that extends down the river and along the gorge walls to the Tower Street Bridge.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of 209 Menzies Lane (Templin Gardens) resides in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

#### *Design or Physical Value:*

Templin Gardens is unique and representative, not only in the municipality but in the greater landscape, of a designed cultural heritage landscape walled garden, clearly defined, designed intentionally, and constructed for aesthetic reasons and to give pleasure.

It displays a high degree of design/aesthetic appeal, with landscaped garden beds, meandering pathways, and limestone walls that are integrated with the limestone gorge of the Grand River in downtown Fergus.

The Gardens demonstrate a high degree of technical achievement and, while the stonework has been repaired over the decades, the walls, capstones, arches and carved stairs display the craftsmanship of the builder and also reflect the historical Scottish stone trades prevalent in this area.

#### *Historical or Associative Value:*

The property's cultural heritage value resides in its association with John Charles Templin (1869-1939) born in Fergus, Ontario, and educated at the Ottawa Normal School before beginning a short teaching career. He purchased the *Fergus News Record* from John Craig in 1902 and was active in the community, being a Town Councillor, President of the Wellington District Press Association and a Secretary of the Fergus Horticultural Society.

Templin built the Gardens between 1920 and 1934. It was said that he started the garden construction for his wife, Annie (nee Black 1871-1930), an avid gardener. The stonework was constructed by Roger Bricker, a Scottish master mason who had a long history of building with limestone in Fergus. Due to the Depression, Templin also saw the construction of the garden as a way to provide employment for the local community. He was also able to hire a full time gardener, John Johnson, an Englishman who lived on Colquhoun Street.

The original Gardens were more extensive than what remains today. The entrance was on St. Andrew Street West between the Fergus Grand Theatre and the stone building out of which the newspaper operated. The original garden contained ponds and waterfalls, sculptures and birdhouses. Photographs from the mid-1930s show a pair of wood pergolas framing the entrance to the stairs as well as a number of garden ornaments and statuary.

The Gardens and the rest of the *News Express* property were willed to Hugh Templin in 1939 upon John's death. Hugh C. Templin (1896-1970) continued to run the newspaper after his father's death. He was considered one of the best writers on a Canadian Weekly Press, and the *News Express* was considered one of the best in Ontario. He also wrote for *MacLean's Magazine*, *Saturday Night*, the *Star Weekly*, and the *Financial Post* under the name of Ephraim Acres.

Hugh Templin retained Mr. Johnson and continued to maintain the Gardens for several years after his father's death. When he retired from publishing he sold the Templin block on St. Andrew Street.

The Gardens fell into disuse through the 1950s and 1960s and it wasn't until the early 1980s that a garden restoration project began, made possible by the local Chamber of Commerce and Town Council. By 1985 the Gardens had been restored and a long-term lease agreement between the Town and the owner was in place.

In 2010, the Township of Centre Wellington purchased the Templin Gardens. The public gardens continue to be a local landmark and source of community pride. In 2011, the Gardens were voted as "Favourite Civic Space, Garden or Monument" in the province-wide Doors Open Ontario online survey.

*Contextual Value:*

The appeal of the Gardens along the Grand River has continued to endure for nearly 100 years. The narrative of the Templins is strongly linked to the Gardens. It is a significant public space within Fergus and the Township of Centre Wellington.

The Gardens are strongly linked to the Grand River. As they descend down the Gorge, they are little altered from the images taken in the mid-1930s. The original building that was on Lot U (formerly the Egg Emporium) that became the offices of the *News Record* still exists in situ at 216-232 St. Andrew Street West.

The Templin Gardens are a landmark within the Township of Centre Wellington and within the broader Grand River Watershed as well.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The attributes below contribute to an understanding of the identified cultural heritage value and interest of 209 Menzies Lane, the Templin Gardens, and should be preserved.

- The property as a coherent whole, with its landscaped beds, ornamental vegetation, paved pathways, all of which is still legible as a walled garden
- The stone walls in their entirety, with copings and cope stones
- The engraved plaque at the entry gate
- The cut stone stairs with access to the Grand River
- The stone archway and tiered stone garden beds
- The milestone marker located in the upper portion of the garden

Note: Excluded from the designation are the modern features installed as part of the refurbishment project in the early 1980s, including the curvilinear pathways of interlocking pavers and limestone trails, and the plant materials. It is recognized that these will change from time to time.

**NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF VARIOUS HERITAGE DESIGNATION BY-LAWS  
BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CENTRE WELLINGTON**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington passed By-laws to designate the following properties to be of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18:

- By-law 2019-01 – to designate 45 Colborne Street (Plan 181, Lot 1 and Pt Lot 2, formerly in the Village of Elora), passed on January 21, 2019 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2019-02 – to designate 209 Menzies Lane (Plan 239, Pt Lot U, RP61R-11476, Part 1, formerly in the Town of Fergus), passed on January 21, 2019 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2018-60 – to designate 37 McNab Street (Plan 181, Lot 2, formerly in the Village of Elora), passed on September 24, 2018 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2017-41 – to designate 24 North Broadway Street (Plan 78, Lots 7 to 9, Pt Lot 6, formerly in the Township of West Garafraxa, Village of Belwood), passed on June 26, 2017 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2017-63 – to designate 495 Union Street West (Plan 77, Pt Lot D, RP61R-3005, Part 1, formerly in the Town of Fergus), passed on August 28, 2017 under Section 29 of the Act

For additional information, including full descriptions of the reasons for designation relating to the above designated properties please contact Mariana Iglesias, Senior Planner (519-846-9691 x289).

Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2019.

Kerri O'Kane,  
Municipal Clerk  
1 MacDonald Square  
Elora, Ontario  
N0B 1S0