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Planning and Growth
The City of Cambridge
heritageinfo@cambridge.ca

March 17, 2026

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Ontario Heritage Trust

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

In the matter of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Ch.O.18. And in the matter of lands and premises at the following municipal address in the Province of Ontario.

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge intends to designate the following property for its cultural heritage value or interest under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV, Section 29.

Municipal Address: 39 Oak Street

Description of the Property

The property known municipally as 39 Oak Street is located on a corner lot on the east side of Oak Street and north of Ball Avenue within the City of Cambridge. The property has several additions including a wooden attached garage. Originally an L-shaped plan, a wooden portion was added and present in the 1910 Fire Insurance Plan. This portion was likely replaced with a brick addition and a new modern attached garage. Despite the additions and chimney repairs, much of the property is preserved since its construction in the late nineteenth century.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property at 39 Oak Street is of cultural heritage value for its design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual value, as defined in Ontario Regulation 9/06 under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The property at 39 Oak Street is a representative example of the Ontario Farmhouse (also known as the Ontario Cottage/Gothic Cottage) which is a subset of Gothic Revival Architecture commonly prevalent in Ontario between the 1850s-1880s. Popularized

through American pattern books and subsequently picked up by local magazines like the *Canadian Farmer 1860s*, Ontario Farmhouses generally incorporate Gothic Revival elements. Historically, it is usually designed to be one-and-a-half storeys to maximize living space within a lower tax bracket by avoiding a full second storey according to the *Ontario Architectural Style Guide 2009*. These cottages follow a specific pattern and floor plan but vary hugely in its exterior finish and details across the province in Ontario.

The subject property has design value as representative of the style within the neighbourhood of East Galt and in the City of Cambridge. These features include Gothic Revival Ontario Cottage architectural style, one-and-a-half storey massing and form, symmetrical front façade, buff brick exterior, medium-pitch gable roof with overhanging eaves and trim, narrow window openings with arched voussoirs and sills on the façade, ornate frieze board on the gable end under the gable overhang, centered window opening with arched voussoir and sill, centered cross-gable over front entrance, covered front one-storey verandah along the front facade with decorative columns, capitals and trim, centred front entrance with transom and sidelights, one-and-a-half storey brick east addition with gable dormer, Covered one-storey porch on the side with decorative columns and trim, and Stone foundation;

The subject property is historically associated with Jane Wilkins, daughter of William H. Wilkins, a prominent Merchant Tailor by trade notable through his works at N. & E. J. Wilkins (1816-1888) and Jane Grenfell Kinsman (1816-1908). Their family ancestry is expansive and has contributed to the development of the Town of Galt.

The first recorded homeowner of the lot was Jane Wilkins in 1914, a methodist whose father was William H. Wilkins, a prominent Merchant Tailor by trade notable through his works at N. & E. J. Wilkins (1816-1888) and mother Jane Grenfell Kinsman (1816-1908). There is very high chance this property was then passed down to Jane Wilkinson, one of the many children of the prominent family who succeeded in building up a large and profitable business.

According to the Galt Reporter Apr 15, 1887 pg. 1, After retiring in 1865, the subject of this obituary purchased the handsome property (37 Beverley Street East, Cambridge) in the Township now owned by Mr. Thos. Alison, where he spent some years...". "Mr. Wilkins has resided for the past few years on Oak Street, in Galt."

Then the property was sold to Christina Scott, in 1919. The subject property is featured in the 1910 Fire Insurance Plan of Galt associated as remnant collection from the early development of the historic Town of Galt driven by historic trends in housing styles in the late 19th / early 20th century. The property historically shares the same lot as 8 Ball Avenue.

The subject property is part of the evolution of the East Galt community, a well-established residential area with a wide range of architectural styles, large mature trees, and unique globe streetlamps due to the 1890s international movement of city beautification led by J.P. Jaffray, of the Galt Reporter from 1896 onwards. According to the 1875 Map of the Town of Galt, much of land surrounds remains to be developed including Ball Avenue. The location as a corner lot on Oak Street, materials, and Gothic Revival Ontario Cottage architectural style reflect the history of the late nineteenth century and wealth of homeowners in the area.

The subject property maintains and supports the historic character of the immediate and broader physical context of the street and the neighborhood through supporting the late nineteenth character of the historic Town of Galt. The property also shares similar massing and architectural style as other buildings on Oak Street which helps preserve the area's sense of place and as well as its character.

The property is historically linked to its surroundings, the collection of housing on Oak Street reflects the growth of the East Galt neighbourhood in relation to the impact of the industrial endeavors within the Town of Galt.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The identified heritage attributes of the property municipally known as 39 Oak Street contribute to its cultural heritage value or interest include.

- Gothic Revival Ontario Cottage architectural style;
- One-and-a-half storey massing and form;
- Symmetrical front façade;
- Buff brick exterior;
- Medium-pitch gable roof with overhanging eaves and trim;
- Narrow window openings with arched voussoirs and sills on the facade;
- Ornate frieze board on the gable end under the gable overhang;
- Centered window opening with arched voussoir and sill;
- Centered cross-gable over front entrance;
- Covered front one-storey verandah along the front facade with decorative columns, capitals and trim;
- Centred front entrance with transom and sidelights;
- One-and-a-half storey brick east addition with gable dormer;
- Covered one-storey porch on the east addition with decorative capitals, columns and trim;
- Stone foundation;

The interior of the building and any additions or outbuildings are excluded in this designation unless specified.

For more information on the Notice of Intention to Designate or the property, please contact Heritage Staff at heritageinfo@cambridge.ca

ANY PERSON MAY, within thirty days of the publication of this Notice, serve notice of their objection on the City Clerk in accordance with the Section 29(5) and 67 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts, in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

All objections should be directed to:
City Clerk's Office, City of Cambridge
50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W8