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Centre Wellington

December 23, 2024

RECEIVED
2024/12/23
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust



RE: Notice of Intent to Designate, 6475 Second Line, West Garafraxa

Dear [REDACTED]

Please take notice that, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington intends to designate the property listed below as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29).

**6475 Second Line
West Garafraxa, ON**

Attached is a copy of the notice regarding the intent to designate including the last date to appeal. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Deanna Maiden, MCIP, RPP
Senior Development Planner

Copy: Ontario Heritage Trust, via email only

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE
PROPERTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29)

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington intends to designate the property municipally known as 6475 Second Line (see key map below) in the Township of Centre Wellington (formerly West Garafraxa), as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29).

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: 6475 Second Line

The cultural heritage value of 6475 Second Line resides primarily in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

Historical or Associative Value:

The property is significant because it has potential to yield information about the theme of early European settlement and contributes to the rural agricultural history of Centre Wellington.

The owners of the property when the current dwelling was built appear to have been the Nelson family, originally from Ireland, who owned the property between 1851 and 1919. In the 1851 census, John Nelson (farmer) is listed as living on the property with his wife (Ann) and son in a log cabin. John passed away in 1867 and the property eventually moved to his wife. By 1881 Ann is listed as living on the property with her four children. Herself and her three sons are listed as “farmer” on the census. In the 1883 land abstract where the ownership is transferred to Ann from her husband, the column “consideration of amount of mortgage” is listed as \$5,000 – a mortgage of this amount suggests that there is now a house on this property. This suggests a build date of the dwelling currently on the property of between 1861 and 1883. By 1891, Ann and some of her children are listed as living with her sons in a stone house with 2 storeys and 9 rooms. After Ann’s passing in 1895, ownership passed between her sons, who farmed the land until it was sold in 1919, ending the family’s ownership.

The property then passed through many owners whose occupations are mostly unlisted. In 1941, 3.46 acres of land was severed from the property to the Grand River Conservation Authority for the Shand Dam. No historical photos of the property or dwelling could be found.

Design or Physical Value:

The dwelling is significant because it is a well-preserved, representative example of the Gothic Revival Cottage architectural style prevalent in rural Ontario at the time of construction. This was the most common residential design in all of Ontario prior to the 1950s, particularly in the rural area. Based on available records, it is likely that the house was constructed circa 1870.

As a representative Gothic Revival Cottage, it includes typical elements such as: an end gabled roof with peaked centre gable and arched window; field stone construction;

symmetrical front façade with two main floor windows; stone voussoirs and stone sills on all windows; original wood windows with some original glass still in place; and original wooden door with transom and sidelights, including wood trim.

Of interest are the large stone quoins, the original wood windows, including original glass, and the arched central window including stone surround. A board and batten addition can be found at the back of the house, constructed in 1992.

The large bank barn is significant as a representative example of early bank barns in this part of Ontario and is thought to have been built around the same time as the dwelling. Barns of this age and type are becoming increasingly rare in Centre Wellington. The barn is wooden with a fieldstone foundation and corrugated metal roof. The barn also contains a log addition constructed in 1890, likely shortly after the main barn construction, as evidenced by the inscription on the front. Most of the original materials have been retained, with the exception of modern structural reinforcements.

Contextual Value:

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings and contributes to the local rural agricultural context of this part of the Township. The dwelling is south-east facing and likely would have been situated on the lands to maximize natural light and views of the property (and farmland). The house overlooks the agricultural fields, paddocks and forested areas.

There are several mature trees, including apple trees which appear to be in declining health, located east of the dwelling between the dwelling and barn. An allée of trees lines the driveway, emphasizing the landscape and creating a formal entrance to the property.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Dwelling:

- Height, scale, and massing of the original one-and-a-half storey stone dwelling
- The pitch and overhang of the roof, including the centre-gable and end-gables
- Field stone construction and materials
- The stone quoining at the corners
- Fenestration pattern of windows and doors, including central arched window opening on the upper storey
- Wooden windows including any original glass and storms in their original locations
- Wooden front door, including transom and sidelights with associated trim, in their original location
- Stone voussoirs and sills on all windows

Bank Barn:

- Height, scale and massing of the large wooden bank barn, including log addition at front
- Fieldstone foundation
- Window and door openings
- Original barn board and log construction
- Hand-hewn large timbers
- Lower-level stables for livestock

Excluded from Designation

- 1990's rear addition onto main dwelling

For further information with respect to the proposed designation please contact Deanna Maiden, Senior Development Planner, at (519) 846-9691, ext. 292.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served to the Clerk of the Township of Centre Wellington on or before the 25th of January, 2024.



Dated at the Township of
Centre Wellington this 26th
day of December, 2024.

Kerri O'Kane, Clerk
1 MacDonald Square
Elora, Ontario
N0B 1S0
Phone: (519) 846-9691
Fax: (519) 846-2074