



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.



Centre Wellington

December 23, 2024

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



RE: Notice of Intent to Designate, 249 Garafraxa Street East

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).

**249 Garafraxa Street East
Fergus, 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 249 Garafraxa Street East (see key map below) in the Township of Centre Wellington (formerly Town of Fergus) 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 249 Garafraxa Street East resides primarily in its design/physical value, and its contextual value.

Design or Physical Value:

The property at 249 Garafraxa Street East is significant for the large black walnut tree (*Juglans Nigra*), which sits directly in front of the dwelling. It is a representative example of a very old, healthy black walnut tree. Further, the stone dwelling is representative of the Ontario Cottage style, prevalent in the area at the time of its construction. Based on available records, it is likely that the house was constructed circa 1870, and the tree is thought to be approximately 150 years old (in 2024).

The broad spreading crown of the tree has bright green leaves, turning to a yellow in the autumn, before they fall. The tree is approximately 20 metres tall, its canopy spans 30 metres, and is thought to have been planted before, or at the same time the dwelling was built (approximately 1870). It is therefore intrinsic to the value of the property. Further, the tree was named the 2023 “Tree of the Year” by the local chapter of the Tree Trust.

Black walnut trees have coarse branches and a dark, thickly ridged bark. Black walnut is a common species in Southwestern Ontario, spreading farther north due to human planting. It grows best in moist soils and full sun. Black walnuts have compound leaves, with 14 to 22 leaflets on a short stalk. They are long, serrated, oval shaped and end in a sharp tip. Typically forest-grown black walnut trees grow straight, but when planted in the open, the tree will spread out, making it easier to harvest the walnuts.

The tree produces round, sticky fruits and nuts are round with smooth ridges. The walnuts can be harvested in the autumn. Many birds and small mammals such as squirrels eat black walnuts. The black walnut, along with other related species, is capable of deterring any nearby competition by exuding the chemical juglone from its roots and decaying leaves, which acts as a toxin, leaving more nutrients and water for themselves. The trees are known for their fast growth and valuable high-quality timber, and their roots and seed husks can also be used to produce a strong black dye.

The dwelling was originally 1-storey, with the second storey being added in the 1970s. This style is typified by its symmetrical design, tall windows and rectangular plan though typically would have some simple ornamentation, or a porch/verandah.

The original section of the dwelling is of simple design in a vernacular style with a mansard roof and second storey (not original). The original roof would likely have been a hip or

gable roof, typical at the time of construction. It is constructed of coursed limestone, with ribbon jointing in an Aberdeen bond pattern. An addition was also added to the rear of the dwelling at an unknown date.

The symmetrical front façade contains two main floor side-hung windows with a 12 x 2 grid (replacements) and the front entrance and surround (door also not original). All visible window openings on the main house have voussoirs and sills. The corners of the dwelling are adorned with quoins. The house is considered a typical example of its type in terms of construction method and materials and is in excellent condition.

Historical/Associative Value

The subject property is significant for its direct link to early settlers and the prominent Black family, who contributed to the growth of the Town of Fergus. James Black (1814-1894), the likely owner of the property at the time the current dwelling was built, is the son of Hugh Black, an early settler who came to the Town of Fergus in 1834. Hugh Black (Senior) emigrated from Scotland and built the stone cottage at the designated property at 495 Union Street West, known as Craighead, as well as the first local tavern and hotel in Fergus.

Contextual Value:

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings and contributes to the historic residential context of this part of the Township. The tree predates much of the development in this area and is in a prominent location on Garafraxa Street East. It is a physical reminder of the historic character of the area. The dwelling is south-east facing and likely would have been situated on the lands in order to maximize natural light and have good views of the property, including the trees.

The property, specifically the black walnut tree, serves as a landmark for this section of Garafraxa Street East. It is highly visible from the street and has been recognized by the local Tree Trust. The current owners of the property have demonstrated a strong commitment to the tree's preservation.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Dwelling:

- Height, scale, and massing of the original one-storey stone dwelling
- Stone construction and materials

Black Walnut Tree

- The basic form of the crown, trunk, branches and root system of the black walnut tree
- The location of the black walnut tree on the property

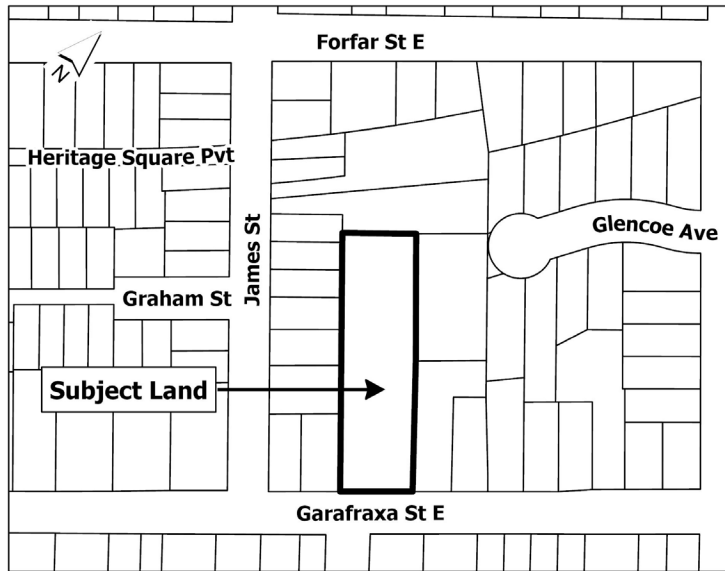
Excluded from Designation

- The roof (shape and massing not original)
- Accessory buildings
- Second floor and rear additions to the dwelling

Note: Minor required pruning is permitted to maintain health of the tree

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