



An agency of the Government of Ontario

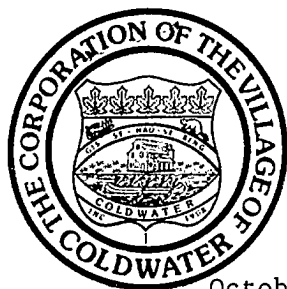


Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

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](http://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](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.



# The Village of Coldwater

Office of the Clerk and Treasurer

2 Gray Street, Coldwater, Ont.

Mailing Address:  
Box 490, Coldwater, Ont.  
L0K 1E0  
Telephone:  
(705) 686-3606

October 15, 1987.

Ontario Heritage Foundation,  
77 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor,  
Toronto, Ontario.  
M7A 2R9

Re: Designation of the "Woodrow Homestead" under the provisions of  
Par IV of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O., 1980, Chapter 337

IN THE MATTER of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O., 1980, Chapter 337,

AND IN THE MATTER of the lands and structure known municipally as the "Woodrow Homestead" located in the Village of Coldwater, Province of Ontario;

## NOTICE OF THE PASSAGE OF A

### DESIGNATING BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Coldwater, on the 5th day of October 1987, enacted By-law No. 714 of the Corporation, designating the lands and structure known municipally as the Woodrow Homestead, and located in the east half of Lot 21, Concession 11, as a property of historic and architectural value and interest under the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O., Chapter 337;

### STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The structure known as the Woodrow Homestead is of architectural and historic significance. Architecturally the structure is a well-preserved example of a finely crafted, squared and dovetailed log home. Exceptional features include an elaborate front doorcase and many multipane, Georgian style windows.

Historically the structure is of significance because of its long association with the Woodrow family who were among the first Anglo-Saxons to permanently settle in the Coldwater area.

Dated at Coldwater, Ontario this 15th day of October, 1987.

Stephen B. Straughan,  
Clerk-Treasurer.

7/19/00 ✓  
RR

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF COLDWATER

BY-LAW NUMBER 714

A by-law to designate the Woodrow Homestead  
as a structure of architectural and historic  
value and interest

WHEREAS The Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, authorizes the council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all buildings and structures thereon to be of architectural and historic value or interest;

AND WHEREAS The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Coldwater has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises which contain the Woodrow Homestead and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

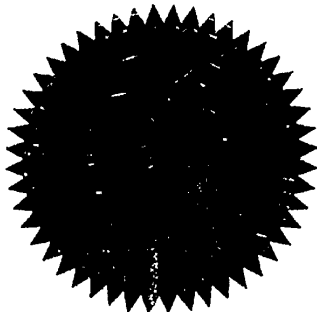
AND WHEREAS no objection to the proposed designation has been served on the clerk of the municipality;

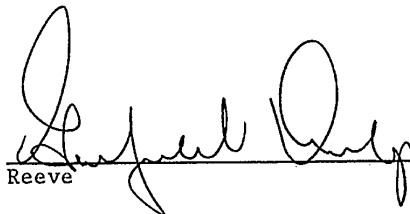
NOW THEREFORE The Council of the Village of Coldwater enacts a by-law as follows:

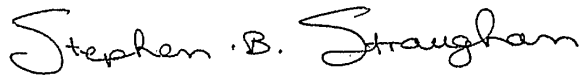
1. That the Woodrow Homestead, more particularly described in "Schedule A" attached hereto, be and is hereby designated as being of architectural and historic value and interest.
2. The clerk-treasurer is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law, along with a copy of the "Reasons for Designation", to be registered against the property described in "Schedule A" hereto in the registry office for the Division of Simcoe.
3. That the clerk-treasurer is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

Read a first and second time this 5th day of October, 1987.

Read a third and final time and passed this 5th day of  
October, 1987.

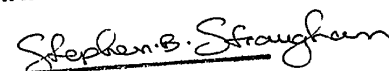


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reeve

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE  
AND CORRECT COPY

OCTOBER 15/87  
DATE

  
CLERK-TREASURER  
VILLAGE OF COLDWATER

**"SCHEDULE A"**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF COLDWATER**

**BY-NUMBER NUMBER 714**

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situated and lying within part of the East Half of Lot 21, Concession 11, formerly in the Township of Medonte, now in the Village of Coldwater in the County of Simcoe and being comprised of a parcel of land 6.4 acres in size.

# CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF COLDWATER

## REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

### WOODROW HOMESTEAD

#### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Sometime in the early 1840's, Archibald and Catherine Woodrow, along with their infant daughter Catherine, emigrated to the United Canadas from their original home in Islay, Scotland. For reasons unknown, the family eventually established themselves upon a 100 acre parcel of land located in the East Half of Lot 21, Concession 12 of the unincorporated Township of Medonte. A small one story log dwelling with a loft and stone fireplace was soon erected and would serve the family as their principal residence for approximately the next 24 years.

Apparently the Woodrows either leased the subject property from the Objibway Indians who had occupied the Coldwater area as a reserve up until 1837, or had squatted upon it during their first 10 years of occupation. Land records show that the 100 acres were not purchased by Archibald Woodrow until July 12, 1852, when the Province of Canada sold the land to him for 43 pounds, 15 shillings.

It is clear that the farm prospered as in 1864 a rather large 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  story squared log house with dug cellar was attached to the front of the original homestead. This new "addition" was much larger than the original homestead and provided the additional space required for a family with 10 children. The new addition itself, although built of log, was well-constructed and incorporated a very elaborate front door case and 12 over 12 pane downstairs windows into its design. Both of these features are not usually found in log homes of this period principally because such architectural elements could only be procured from skilled craftsmen at a higher than average price. Accordingly the use of such a doorcase and windows in the Woodrow Homestead indicates that the family was reasonably comfortable financially.

From 1864 onward, the house did not undergo any further major modifications and remains to this day in essentially the same form. Over the years however some minor modifications were made that reflect the changing times, tastes and materials. In approximately 1875-1880, the family added narrow clapboard siding to the house in an attempt to hide the pioneer log construction which at that time was associated with the less well to do. After Archibald's death in March of 1885, the property passed to his wife Catherine and was later transferred by inheritance to their son Alexander (Sandy) Woodrow. During these years, it is apparent that the original cedar shingle roof was replaced on the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story portion with metal shingles and the lower sash of the 12 over 12 pane windows was modernized by removing the panes and installing two large pieces of glass.

In 1944, the house and property were conveyed out of the Woodrow family for the first time in 100 years. The property subsequently passed through the ownership of Victor Turner and Arthur Johnson, and finally in 1966 was acquired by Coldwater Canadiana, a group of individuals dedicated to restoring the home as a museum of early Canadian life.

Although the Woodrow Homestead is not the oldest structure of its type in the Province, it remains as a well-preserved visible link to the agricultural pioneers that originally settled Central Ontario and serves as testament to the relative prosperity they achieved principally through hard work.

### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodrow Homestead is an excellent, if not unusual example of a squared and dovetailed log home.

The building itself consists of a 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  story pine log structure approximately 10 logs high with dry stone foundation and dug cellar (circa 1864) attached to a one story log structure (circa 1840). The two structures form a "T" shape with the newer portion forming the top of the "T" and the older portion its tail.

The East facade of the building faces Highway 12 which is the original Coldwater Road; the West elevation is situated so as to face the Coldwater River and the Southern elevation is parallel to Sideroad Four of Medonte Township.

The Eastern elevation is characterized by two 12 over 2 pane double hung windows (once 12 over 12 pane) flanking a rather elaborate door case with an 8 light transom window and two 3 light sidelites. A wooden gutter runs along the entire length of this facade.

The Southern elevation is characterized by one 12 over 2 pane double hung window (once 12 over 12 pane) on the ground floor with two six over six pane double hung windows on the second floor gable end. The construction of the gable end is wood frame sheathed with narrow clapboard. A brick chimney supported by framing indicates that the newer portion was heated with box stoves. The Southern facade of the older rear portion is characterized by a contemporary porch with many windows. One original 6 over 6 double hung window and a handcrafted door remain as openings in the log work.

The Northern elevation is almost identical to the Southern elevation of the structure and repeats all of the same elements including a brick chimney. One exception to this symmetry is, however, the lack of a doorway in the 1840's portion. Despite this, it appears that the extant 6 over 6 double hung window in this portion of the structure may have once been part of an opening which contained a door.

The Western elevation of the home is characterized for the most part by log walls with no openings, a stone fireplace and chimney are placed at the rear of the 1840's section and a small blocked-in window is located in the gable end of the original section. In addition, a small contemporary enclosed porch runs along the entire Western facade.

The roof of the 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  story 1860's portion was originally covered with cedar shingles. These were removed between 1900 and 1920 and replaced with galvanized metal shingles. The roof of the 1 story 1840's portion is currently covered in a replacement of original material "cedar shakes".

The entire home exhibits well-executed log dovetailing and the door case is in itself an example of fine craftsmanship. Exterior clapboard siding once covered much of the house, but has since been removed; its original colour has not been determined.

The original foundation of dry stone has been partially replaced over the years with concrete. Despite this many of the original stones have been retained in the cellar, particularly in the centre supporting wall.

The interior of the home is characterized by a centre hall plan with English colonial floor joists supporting the second floor. Walls were originally finished with lath and plaster and painted pine boards comprise the floors. The floor in the 1840's portion was once constructed of pine boards floating on a dirt base; this particular floor has been replaced with granite flagstones. A pine mantle and stone fireplace with crane characterized the west wall of the 1840's portion.

In general, the house does not exhibit a great deal of interior detail work and even the staircase is rather spartan in design.

The Woodrow Homestead, in general, is exceptional architecturally because it is one of the few pioneer log homes in the area which has remained in its original location. To a further extent, the home exhibits a number of unusual exterior architectural features which show a good deal of care and expertise went into its building.