

**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 250 Union Street East (see key map below) in the Township of Centre Wellington (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).

**Cultural Heritage Value: 250 Union Street East**

The cultural heritage value of 250 Union Street East lies in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

Historical or Associative Value

The subject property has historical and associative value because it has direct association with the Presbyterian church community and the history of the matriarchal community of Fergus. It is directly linked to the local Melville Church and Presbyterian community in Fergus. The Melville Church trustees purchased the property in 1890 and had a church manse built that same year. It was the second manse constructed for the Melville Church, the first manse being nearby at 420 Union Street West. Only four ministers lived in the dwelling on the property, as it was sold in 1929 after the formation of the United Church of Canada, which brought together the Melville Presbyterian and Wesley Methodist churches. It is further linked to the Wellington County House of Industry and Refuge, as Christina Allan, who purchased the property from the United Church, was the matron of the facility and has association with the women of Fergus because Allan ran the Home for Elderly Ladies out of the subject property. Christina Allan is related to the Allan Farmstead, next to the present-day Wellington County Library and Archives, which is a National Historic Site of Canada, designated in 1995.

Design or Physical Value

The subject dwelling was originally constructed in 1890 and is significant because it is a representative example of the Italianate architectural style with its two storey asymmetrical red brick facades, yellow brick quoins and voussoirs above the windows and doors. The roof is a combination of hip and gable styles, with multiple slopes and a complex shape, including a widow's walk on the very top (former iron cresting has been removed), which exemplifies the Italianate style. It has overhanging eaves and wooden soffits, providing shade and adding ornamental design. The original ornamental brackets have since been removed, as evidenced by archival photographs.

The front facade features a large, covered porch (replacement) with a roof supported by decorative wooden brackets that are adorned with intricate trim and a large two-storey bay on the right side, which extends from the main structure and includes several windowpanes. All of the windows are arched with voussoirs above, which are a distinctive element of Italianate architecture. These windows, as typical of the architectural style, are large, allowing for ample natural light.

Contextual Value

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, and historically linked to the growth of the local Presbyterian congregation and the general community. The dwelling was built as a manse for the Melville Presbyterian Church, which directly links it to the history of the disruption of the Presbyterian Church, the establishment of the Melville Presbyterian Church as well as the formation of the Melville United Church upon its merging with the Wesley Methodist Church. It is also linked to the history of the nearby Wellington County House of Industry and Refuge via Christina Allan, who was the matron of the facility, and to the women of Fergus through her establishment of the Home for Elderly Ladies which she ran out of the subject property.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of this area because of its size (double lot that has never been severed) and how it aligns with the local vernacular of the neighbourhood, in terms of setbacks and mature landscaping. It has high aesthetic value along the streetscape. The majority of the surrounding dwellings and structures were also constructed between the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century in similar, closely related architectural styles, such as, Italianate, Regency, Victorian, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

- Two-storey asymmetrical Italianate-style dwelling with two-storey projecting bay
- Yellow brick quoins and arched voussoirs over all windows and doors, except rear door that led to a former summer kitchen (since been removed)
- Single horizontal yellow brick band across the top of the second storey extending over lintels
- Fenestration pattern of door and window openings and the wooden surrounds/framing in their current sizes and locations
- Existing building footprint (summer kitchen removed)
- Combination of hip and gable style roof, including widow's walk (iron work removed) with wooden soffits (wooden brackets removed) and projecting eaves (eavestroughs are modern replacements)
- Front door surround including transom (decorative etched glass with construction date of 1890), sidelights, wooden trim and decorative glass door insert (not original to the door)
- Original one-over-one wooden window sashes (glass has been replaced in all except the central second storey window)
- One-over-one storm windows that were added in the 1980s
- Eyebrow window in third storey attic on the west facade
- Covered wooden porch, including decorative wooden fretwork and detailing (replicated in the 1980s using archival photographs)
- Wooden side porch with shed roof and decorative wooden fretwork and detailing
- Side porch extension with two steps and pergola attached to shed-roof porch, including decorative wooden fretwork and detailing
- Set of 2 wooden doors with glass inserts and rounded arch transom above, which exit onto the side porch from the rear dining room wall (replacement door/transom and reinstated opening, based on research)

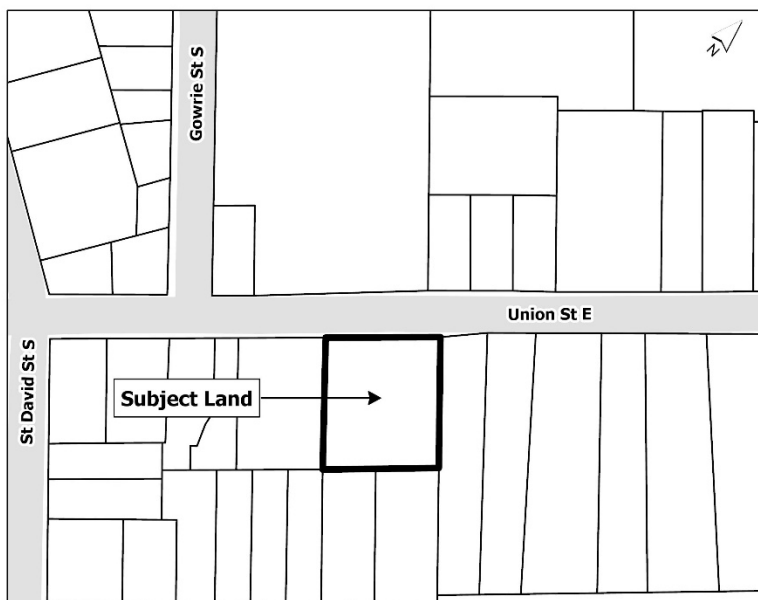
- Rear door exiting onto side porch from the kitchen (original)
- Decorative picket fence including four large entrance posts (replicated in 1994 from archival photographs)
- Interior elements:
  - Original cherry wood hand-carved staircase with newel post
  - Two sets of large pine interior swing doors on the main floor (replicated exactly based on existing pocket door, found in home)
  - One set of pine interior pocket doors on the main floor (one original, one replicated exactly)
  - Two wood and cast-iron fireplace inserts with tile surround on the main floor (mantle surrounds original to the house, one cherry wood in parlor, one oak in library)
  - Original moldings, plaster, trim, baseboards, and ceiling medallions
  - Cast-iron air registers/returns

Excluded from the Heritage Attributes to be Protected

- Two wire-cut brick chimneys (replacements, non-original)
- Door on rear façade, exiting from kitchen (replacement)
- Side porch extension with two steps and pergola attached to shed-roof porch, including decorative wooden fretwork and detailing

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 December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.



Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2024.

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