

Item 2.2 919 York Road: Proposed Designation

Staff Recommendation

That Heritage Guelph advises City Council to publish a Notice of Intention to Designate the property known as 919 York Road under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act using the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and list of heritage attributes proposed by staff at the October 12, 2021 meeting of Heritage Guelph.

Report

Staff have reviewed the subject property and recommend that Heritage Guelph advise City Council that the property meets the prescribed criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest under Ontario Regulation 9/06. Staff further recommend that Heritage Guelph advise Council to publish a notice of intention to designate 919 York Road pursuant to section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Note: Although the subject property is referred to historically and in the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties as 895 York Road, the official address of record for the subject property is 919 York Road.

A statement of significance including proposed heritage attributes of the stone gate, Matthews farmhouse and stone shed within the property known as 919 York Road is set out below.

Municipal Address: 919 York Road, Guelph

General Description of Location: The subject property is located in east Guelph on the south side of York Road, west of the intersection of York Road and Watson Parkway South. The subject real property consists of approximately 6.522 hectares.

Legal Description: The subject property is described specifically as being Parts 2, 3 and 4 on Reference Plan 61R-10837 dated April 30, 2008 and historically as Part of Lots 4 and 5, Concession 2, Division C in the City of Guelph.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property known as 919 York Road contains vestiges of two significant aspects of the historical development of the City of Guelph: 19th century farmsteads linked to pioneer settlement in former rural farming areas within the City of Guelph and subsequently the development of the Ontario Reformatory lands. Along the southwest side of the property are three built heritage resources that are listed (as non-designated) on the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties: the stone gate at York Road; the

Matthews farmhouse and a detached, stone shed. These three built heritage resources have heritage attributes that meet all three criteria used to determine cultural heritage value or interest as set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06 under the Ontario Heritage Act and, therefore, the property merits individual heritage designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Stone Gate

The stone gate at 919 York Road has design value or physical value because it is a unique example of a stone gate built for the Ontario Reformatory about 1914; it is a representative example of materials and construction methods taught to prison workers through the Ontario Reformatory work program; it displays a high degree of craftsmanship.

The stone gate at 919 York Road has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with the theme of the Ontario Reformatory as an institution that is significant to the City of Guelph community.

The stone gate at 919 York Road has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the former Ontario Reformatory lands; it is visually and historically linked to the adjacent Ontario Reformatory cultural heritage landscape at 785 York Road; and it is a landmark indicating a former north east entrance and roadway connection to the Ontario Reformatory.

Matthews Farmhouse

The Matthews farmhouse at 919 York Road, built in 1860 by Robert and Stephen Matthews (farmers and stone masons), has design value or physical value because it is an early and representative example of mid-19th century rural farmhouse construction using heavy timber log and fieldstone (limestone and granite) construction methods.

The Matthews farmhouse at 919 York Road has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with the theme of 19th century farmsteads linked to pioneer settlement in former rural farming areas within the City of Guelph and direct associations with the Ontario Reformatory, an institution that is significant to the City of Guelph community. After being purchased by the Province of Ontario in 1910 the farmhouse was used as a residence for Reformatory staff whose duties included watching for escapees or “go boys”.

The Matthews farmhouse at 919 York Road has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the former Ontario Reformatory lands; it is visually and historically linked to the adjacent Ontario Reformatory cultural heritage landscape at 785 York Road.

Stone Shed

The stone shed behind the Matthews farmhouse at 919 York Road has design value or physical value because it is a representative example mid-19th century rural farm building construction using fieldstone (limestone and granite) construction.

The stone shed behind the Matthews farmhouse at 919 York Road has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with the theme of farmsteads linked to pioneer settlement in former rural farming areas within the City of Guelph.

The stone shed behind the Matthews farmhouse at 919 York Road has contextual value because it is functionally, visually and historically linked to the Matthews farmhouse and to the adjacent Ontario Reformatory cultural heritage landscape at 785 York Road.

Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 919 York Road:

Stone Gate

- stone gate posts with stone caps
- curved, stone wing walls with upright “battlement” or “soldier” stones along top;
- stone end piers
- driveway from gate to the east side of the farmhouse and shed

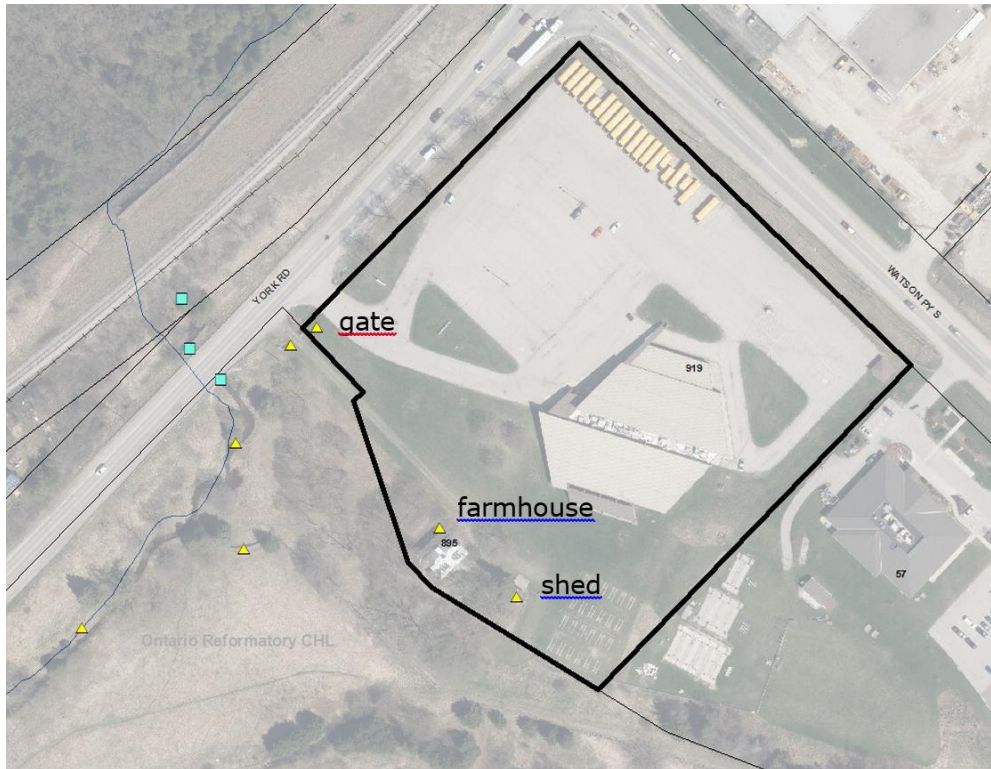
Matthews Farmhouse

- 1.5-storey, hip roof building form with raised basement;
- red brick chimney at peak of hip roof;
- small gable roof dormers on each of the four roof slopes;
- exterior stone walls, including the stone basement walls;
- all original door and window openings including stone sills;
- low, curved wall of dry (fieldstone) construction to the west of the farmhouse

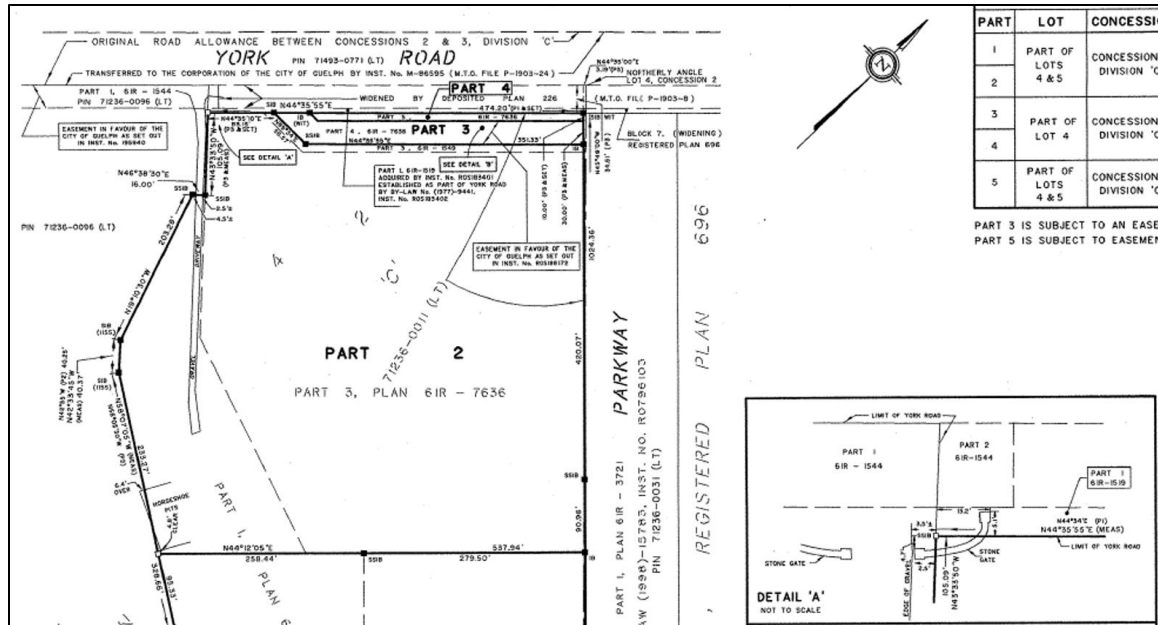
Stone Shed

- one-storey, front gable building form;
- stone chimney rising from the southwest gable wall;
- exterior stone walls;
- all original door and window openings.

Attachment-1 Images of 919 York Road



October 12, 2021



895 York Rd

Pt Lot 4, Pt Lot 5, Concession 2, Division C, Pt 1 of 61R-1246, Pt 1 of 61R-1749
Built c. 1914

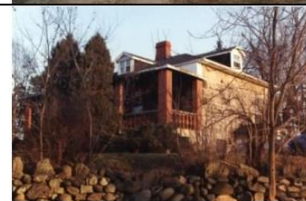
Gateway - Square gateposts with but stone caps and lantern feet, curved wing walls, upright 'battlement' stones, end piers.



895 York Rd

Pt Lot 4, Pt Lot 5, Concession 2, Division C, Pt 1 of 61R-1246, Pt 1 of 61R-1749
Built c. 1850

Ontario Cottage, 1 storey on high basement, loft, hip roof, centre chimney, 6/6 windows, entrance, gateposts.



895 York Rd

Pt Lot 4, Pt Lot 5, Concession 2, Division C, Pt 1 of 61R-1246, Pt 1 of 61R-1749
Built ?

Storage - 1 storey shed, gable roof with stone chimney.



October 12, 2021

Farmhouse (with front and rear porch), stone shed to right and frame barn to left – since demolished) (Photo: c.1920s)



Gordon Couling (1969)

October 12, 2021



October 12, 2021

