

2187 Gordon St: Kidd Barn & Blair House

Cultural Heritage
Evaluation Report,
Heritage Attributes
and
Designation
Recommendation



Statement of Significance – Design Value

Design/Physical Value

The Kidd barn at 2187 Gordon Street meets Criterion 1 because it exhibits design or physical value as it is an early and rare example of a stone slot bank barn built by 1842. The stone slot bank barn was constructed using local fieldstone with slots in the walls. This building is now the only one of its kind within the City of Guelph.

The Blair farmhouse at 2187 Gordon Street meets Criterion 1 exhibiting design value or physical value because it is an early and rare example of a material or construction method in its use of formed concrete for wall construction in a rural residential building.

The Kidd barn at 2187 Gordon Street meets Criterion 2 because it exhibits design or physical value as it displays a high degree of craftsmanship that is rarely preserved. The constructors utilized local materials including fieldstone in the immediate vicinity and the implementation of slots was at that time practical and highly efficient in maintaining the structural integrity of the barn.

Statement of Significance

Historical/Associative Value

The Kidd barn at 2187 Gordon Street meets Criterion 4 because it exhibits hand historical or associative value as it is linked with the Kidd family who occupied the property from the mid to late 19th century. James Kidd settled in the Township of Puslinch in 1830 and contributed to the agricultural community at the time. Agriculture was integral to the local economy during this time and the Kidd and Blair families were active within Wellington County's agricultural trade.

The Blair farmhouse at 2187 Gordon Street meets Criterion 4 because it exhibits historical or associative value as it is connected to the Blair family, an early settler of the Puslinch area. The Blair family had farms on both sides of Gordon Street and emigrated from Scotland in the 1870s. The family was well known for their extensive orchards.

Statement of Significance

Contextual Value

The Kidd barn and Blair farmhouse meet Criterion 7 because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of the area. The Kidd Barn and Blair farmhouse support the agricultural landscape of the surrounding area. The property maintains and defines the surrounding use for agricultural use as it was over the past two centuries.

The Kidd barn at 2187 Gordon Street meets Criterion 8 because it is physically, visually and historically connected with the adjacent mid to late 19th century property at 2162 Gordon Street, identified as the Marcolongo Farm, a protected cultural heritage landscape. The Kidd Barn was built into the bank and retains its function in the specific location of the barn in the landscape. The property is associated with the Blair family and represents a rural agricultural grouping along Gordon Street.

The John Blair farmhouse at 2187 Gordon Street meets Criterion 8 exhibiting contextual value because it is historically linked to its surroundings. James Blair, a Scottish immigrant to Puslinch Township bought the farm located across the road from the Kidd farm in the 1870s. Blair's son William G. Blair, purchased the subject property in 1906 and his brother John Blair built the formed concrete house at 2187 Gordon Street in 1907. John and his wife Mina (Hunt) Blair lived in the farmhouse for more than fifty years.

The Kidd barn and Blair farmhouse at 2187 Gordon Street meet Criterion 9 because they are landmarks along Gordon Street as people move north further into city limits. 2187 Gordon Street has been visible along Gordon Street, formerly Brock Road, for decades. The position of the barn and farmhouse in comparison to Gordon Street provides a clear view of the property from the roadway.

Heritage Attributes

Stone slot bank barn

- Three door openings on the south (lower) wall and the upper door in the south wall.
- Original form of the bank barn with an end gable roofline and single-storey north wall and 2-storey south wall.
- Location and orientation of the stone bank barn to maintain the building as being built across a slope.
- Exterior and interior of all extant stone walls of the slot bank barn.
- All original slot ventilation openings and window and door openings seen in exterior and interior of extant stone walls (west gable wall, east gable interior wall and the two-storey south wall).

Heritage Attributes

Heavy timber bank barn addition

- Original form of the heavy timber bank barn addition with its gable roofline and single-storey north wall and 2-storey south wall.
- Location and orientation of the heavy timber bank barn addition to maintain the building as being built into the slope.
- Vertically oriented exterior wood board cladding
- Extant cutouts in vertical boards of the upper north and south gable walls that create the shape of a Florian cross.
- Original heavy timber framing members – including pole rafters, and hand-hewn posts and beams and original joinery.
- Tape pointed stone wall exterior of lower level.
- Imbrication pattern created by pressed metal sheets cladding the roof.

Heritage Attributes

Blair farmhouse

- Original 2-storey form of the house with a hip roof and L-plan.
- Exterior walls constructed of formed in place concrete covered with a render that is incised with a pattern that mimics ashlar stone.