2187 Gordon Street: James Kidd Barn and Blair Farmhouse

Notice of Objection to Intention to Designate

(Left) James Kidd barn in July 2023; (Right) Blair farmhouse in 2019 (Photos: S. Robinson, Heritage Planning)

Stone Slot Barn and Heavy Timber Addition

Statement of Significance

Heritage planning staff, in consultation with Heritage Guelph, prepared a cultural heritage evaluation of 2187 Gordon Street. The subject property is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act because it meets six of the prescribed criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest. The heritage attributes of 2187 Gordon Street display: design or physical, historical or associative, and contextual value.

Statement of Significance

James Kidd Barn – Cultural Heritage Value

- Is an early and rare example of a stone slot bank barn built by 1842.
- 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.
- displays a high degree of craftsmanship that is rarely preserved.
- 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.
- Is physically, visually and historically connected with the Marcolongo Farm, a protected cultural heritage landscape.
- Was built into the bank and retains its function in the specific location on the barn in the landscape.
- Is a landmark.

Statement of Significance

Blair Farmhouse – Cultural Heritage Value

- 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.
- Connected to the Blair family, an early settler of the Puslinch area. The Blair family emigrated from Scotland in the 1870s and had farms on both sides of Gordon Street. The family was well known for their extensive orchards.
- Historically linked to its surroundings
- A landmark along Gordon Street - the James 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.

Heritage Attributes

James Kidd Barn (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

James Kidd Barn (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.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that Council continue with its intention to designate 2187 Gordon Street and issue the proposed heritage designation By-law Number (2024) – 20901 (seen in Attachment-4) for 2187 Gordon Street in order to meet the prescribed deadlines of the legislation.