

By-law Number (2022) - 20689

Schedule A: 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 post-contact 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

The west side of the stone gate is located within 785 York Road and a portion of the east side of the stone gate is within the west corner of the subject property. As the majority of the stone gate is protected in the designation by-law for 785 York Road it is recommended that the balance of the gate is protected through the designation of 919 York Road.

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 and protected 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.

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 post-contact 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.

The stone shed behind the Matthews farmhouse 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 has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with the theme of 19th century farmsteads linked to post-contact settlement in former rural farming areas within the City of Guelph.

The stone shed behind the Matthews farmhouse 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.