

By-law Number (2024) - 20976

Schedule 1: Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: 408 Willow Road

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, according to Ontario Regulation 9/06 as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22. The heritage attributes of 408 Willow Road display: design or physical, historical or associative, and contextual value.

The subject property meets Criterion 1 because the building exhibits design or physical value as a representative example of Georgian architectural style from the mid-19th century in a rural residential building design. The subject property meets Criterion 2 because the building has high physical integrity in that it has retained most of its original architectural design features in limestone and granite displaying a high degree of craftsmanship.

The Hood farmhouse known as Fountainhead Farm meets Criterion 4 of Ontario Regulation 569/22 being of historic and associative value because of its direct ties to Guelph's agricultural history and to the Hood and McCorkindale families, both important settler families of Guelph Township and what is now the City of Guelph. The Hood family has a long history in the area and the farmhouse is tied to three generations of the Hood family – George Hood, and primarily his son Gideon Hood and grandson George D. Hood. George Hood was a merchant miller in Selkirk, Scotland and emigrated to Canada arriving with his family in Guelph Township in 1832. George's son Gideon Hood was described in the 1906 Historical Atlas of the County of Wellington as becoming one of the most notable men in the district of Guelph Township. Gideon did the first regular teaming between Guelph and Hamilton and carried the first mail between the two places. Gideon Hood made Fountainhead Farm into a very successful agricultural business and by 1871 owned 1,250 acres and seven dwelling houses, as well as 14 barns or stables, three carriages or sleighs, six wagons, four plows, and two fanning mills. The Fountainhead Farm was granted to Gideon's son George D. in 1888 who continued to manage the farm until it was sold to the McCorkindale family in 1920.

The McCorkindales were part of the original Scottish immigrant group to settle the Paisley Block area of Guelph Township shortly after 1827. Robert and Jessie McCorkindale purchased Fountainhead Farm in 1920. Their older son William Cleghorn (Bill) McCorkindale became the youngest graduate from the University of Guelph's Veterinary College in 1932. Bill McCorkindale moved back to Fountainhead Farm from Mount Forest where he continued his veterinary practice until the McCorkindales sold the property in 1960.

The subject property meets Criterion 7 because it is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the architectural character and agricultural history of

the Willow Road area. The subject property meets Criterion 8 because the stone farmhouse at 408 Willow Road and the adjacent stone carriage house at 404 Willow Road maintain their original configuration and are functionally, visually and historically linked. The subject property meets Criterion 9 because the building's distinctive form, building footprint and combined limestone and granite construction has become a landmark within the historic Willow Road streetscape.