

Staff Report



To	Heritage Advisory Committee
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Date	Thursday, May 1, 2025
Subject	2 Suffolk Street West: Draft Council Designation Report

Recommendation

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee recommends to City Council that 2 Suffolk Street West merits designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.
 2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee supports the heritage attributes recommended in the staff report titled "2 Suffolk Street West: Draft Council Designation Report," and dated May 1, 2025.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

In November 2022, the Government of the Province of Ontario passed Bill 23 (amended by Bill 185), which made changes to the Ontario Heritage Act that will remove all non-designated properties from the Municipal Heritage Register on January 1, 2027. Heritage planning staff and the Heritage Advisory Committee have been reviewing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council publish its intention to designate 2 Suffolk Street West pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The cultural heritage significance and heritage attributes of the property are described in this report.

Key Findings

2 Suffolk Street West is listed as a non-designated built heritage resource on the City of Guelph's Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

A property may be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if it meets two or more of the criteria used to determine cultural heritage value or interest as set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22; see Attachment-1).

Heritage planning staff, in consultation with the Heritage Advisory Committee, have completed a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report and Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Staff have determined that the property meets three of the nine criteria used to determine cultural heritage value according to Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg 569/22) under the Ontario Heritage Act. Therefore, the property merits individual heritage designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The key findings and recommendations of this report align with 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority 6.1.4 to conserve our cultural heritage resources.

Future Guelph Theme

City Building

Future Guelph Objectives

City Building: Grow and care for our community space and places

Financial Implications

None.

Report

Location

The subject property is located at 2 Suffolk Street West, on the southwest corner of the intersection of Suffolk Street West and Norfolk Street. The legal description is the legal description is Pt Lot 744, Plan 8.

Statement of Significance

Lot 744 was purchased by Thomas Worswick in the late 1870's. Worswick would construct the current structure as a house for his family and an office for his company, the Worswick Machine Co., in 1884. An addition was constructed on the southern side of the property in 1896. The Worswicks lived in the house until 1908, when the property was sold to Chas Morton, who then sold it to Dr. H. C. McLean, who lived and practiced medicine out of the property. A garage addition was added during the 1910s or 1920s, as it appears in the 1922 Fire Insurance Plan.

Thomas Worswick was a prominent industrialist in nineteenth-century Guelph, owning and selling the Sewing Machine Company to Thomas Raymond, which later became Raymond Sewing Machines. Thomas later founded the Worswick and Arms Co, later the Worswick Engine Co. This factory staffed approximately 30 workers, and manufactured a high-end engine, the Brown Engine, that was sold to clients such as the Toronto Star. His home also served as the factory's office and was listed as such in the Guelph Evening Mercury.

Design/Physical Value

The subject property meets criterion 1 because it is a representative example of an Italianate style residence with Georgian revival elements.

Historical/Associative Value

The subject property meets criterion 4 because it has a direct associative and historical connection to Thomas Worswick and the Worswick Engine Co.

Contextual Value

The subject property meets criterion 7 because it is important in supporting the character of the Norfolk Streetscape, an important cultural heritage landscape in the City of Guelph.

Heritage Attributes

The following elements of the property at 2 Suffolk St W should be considered as heritage attributes in a designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act:

- Building form, including
 - 2 storey building 1884 construction
 - 2 storey 1896 addition
 - Hipped roof
- Exterior yellow brick walls, including
 - Door openings
 - Window openings
- Bay windows on the Norfolk Street façade, including
 - Iron cresting
 - Pent roofs
 - Shutters

Consultations and Engagement

Research assistance was provided by Paige Cranstone, a University of Guelph student in the course "If Walls Could Talk: Heritage Planning in Guelph".

A letter was sent to the property owners on April 17, 2025.

Attachments

None.

Departmental Approval

Krista Walkey, MCIP, RPP, General Manager, Planning and Building Services

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