

# Staff Report



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To	<b>Heritage Advisory Committee</b>
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Date	Thursday, July 3, 2025
Subject	<b>2 Suffolk Street West: Draft Council Designation Report</b>

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## 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 July 3, 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.

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## **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.

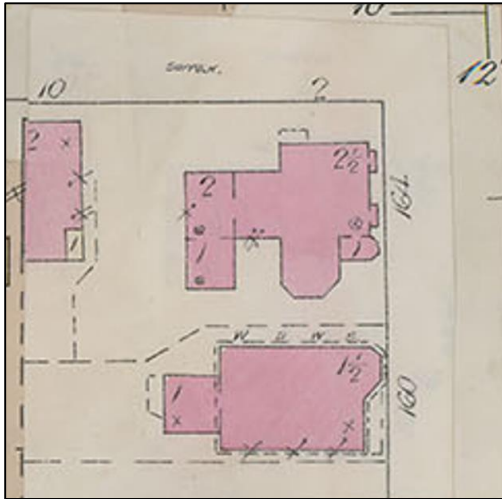


Figure 1: 1897 Fire Insurance Plan showing the bay shaped additions on the back of the house creating a third bay on the Norfolk St facade (Guelph Civic Museum, 2013.39.1)

## Building Description

The detached residential dwelling at 2 Suffolk Street West is a late Italianate style home with Neo-Georgian details, made from yellow pressed brick. Its location on the corner of Suffolk and Norfolk allows for 2 facades which both possess high craftsmanship and ornamental architectural details. The Norfolk façade has three bays, with two bay windows and an entrance near the southeast corner of the building. The Suffolk façade has four bays, with an entrance between two double hung twinned windows. Cantons and corbels along a wooden frieze appear around the entire structure except for the garage. The addition from 1896 contains the same hip roof, canton, corbel and the wood frieze elements which make the Norfolk St façade look cohesive to the original body of the building.



Figure 3: The Norfolk St facade, the left most bay being the addition in 1896, and the right and center bay are original to the 1884 construction (Photograph: Paige Cranstone, March 19, 2025)

## **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:

- Suffolk Street West façade, including:
  - Yellow brick wall extending from northeast corner of the building to the northwest corner of the original building
  - Window and door openings, not including wood or glass
- Norfolk Street façade, including:
  - Yellow brick wall extending from the northeast corner of the building, to the southeast corner of the original building, not including the entranceway addition from the 1920s
  - Window and door openings, not including wood or glass
- Protruding bays on the Norfolk Street façade, including
  - Iron cresting
  - Wood-clad exterior walls
  - Not including the windows – wood or glass

The heritage attributes do not include

- The interior
- Yellow brick garage
- Yellow brick addition connecting the original structure to the garage
- The roof
- The south elevation
- The west elevation

## **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.

Heritage Planning staff met with the property owner on May 7, 2025

### **Attachments**

None.

### **Departmental Approval**

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

### **Report Author**

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