

The Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington

By-law 2026-12

A By-law to designate the lands at 179 Victoria Crescent
to be of cultural heritage value or interest

Whereas The *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Section 29 (the "Act"), as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural value or interest;

Whereas On the advice of the municipal heritage committee, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known municipally as 179 Victoria Crescent ("the Property") and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust notice of intention to designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be posted on the Township's website having a general circulation in the municipality;

Whereas The statement of cultural value or interest of the Property are set out in Schedule "B";

Whereas The description of Heritage Attributes are set out in Schedule "C";

Whereas No notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served upon the clerk of the municipality;

Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington hereby enacts as follows:

1. The real property municipally known as 179 Victoria Crescent and more particularly described in Schedule "A", is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Act;
2. The Township's legal representative is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" in the proper land registry office;
3. Township staff is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this By-law to be posted on the Township's website having general circulation in the municipality;
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon its final passing.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 9th day of February, 2026.



Mayor – Shawn Watters



Clerk – Kerri O'Kane

Schedule “A”

Legal Description

179 Victoria Crescent, legally described as:

Part Lots 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7, Block B, Plan 181, (New Survey) Part 1 61R7737 Except Part 4 61R9466;
Township of Centre Wellington

PIN: 71410-0384 (LT)

Schedule "B"

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Description of Property

179 Victoria Crescent is located on Block B, Plan 181 PT Lots 2-4, 6 & 7 in the Township of Centre Wellington, County of Wellington (Former Village of Elora). It is northwest of Henderson Street and east of the Grand River, within Elora's historic downtown core. The property is triangular in shape and part of a block connected with the former Chalmers Church (now residential/commercial) located at 24 Henderson Street and former Church Manse located at 169 Henderson Street. It is located within the Victoria Park and Victoria Crescent Cultural Heritage Landscape and is surrounded by mainly residential uses, many of which are designated heritage properties.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: The cultural heritage value of 179 Victoria Crescent resides in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

Historical or Associative Value

The property is significant for its historical and associative value because it has direct connection with the Presbyterian Church community and the establishment of the Free Church of Scotland Canadian Synod (Chalmers Presbyterian Church), in Elora. The dwelling was first built as a carriage house that served the existing church building located at 24 Henderson Street. A stone carriage house of this magnitude suggests that the church was well funded.

The property is associated with Reverend James Middlemiss, who dedicated many of his years in Elora to the Church. The Trustees of Chalmers Church owned the property for nearly thirty years. During this time, due to the growing congregation, the current stone church was constructed (1877), replacing the original wood frame church. In 1893, the Reverend retired and shortly after moved into the dwelling at 200 Smith Street, constructed for him by the Church congregation. The Chalmers Church closed in 1917 after merging with the Knox Presbyterian Church in Elora. It was repurposed for commercial/residential use.

The property is also associated with other notable Elora citizens, including Willard Franklin Martinoni, a mason who is credited with converting the carriage house into a residential building in approximately 1938, and George and Phyllis Pritchard, local business owners and frequent volunteers in the community.

Design or Physical Value

The subject dwelling is significant as a representative example of a late 19th century carriage house designed in the Georgian architectural style. Nearby Chalmers Church was built in 1877, replacing a frame church built in 1855, while the Church Manse, south of this property at 169 Victoria Crescent was built in 1861. Oral history suggests that the carriage house was built some time between 1855-1877. Photographic evidence shows that it was present by 1888.

The original section of the building is constructed of coursed rubblestone with ribbon pointing to resemble cut stone, creating more uniform lines. The building has a low hip roof typical of Georgian architecture and a chimney is located on the south facade of the dwelling. Most window and door openings on the original section of the dwelling appear to be original and currently feature concrete lintels and sills, which may have been replaced when it was converted to residential use. The large main floor window on the front façade is believed to have once been an entrance for horses or carriages. A board and batten two-storey addition was added in the 1970s-80s providing more living space and a carport.

Contextual Value

The property has significant contextual value because it is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings and directly linked to the evolution of the Chalmers Church and the Church Manse. Surrounded by numerous designated heritage properties, this building contributes to the variety of historic building styles in this part of Elora. Further, the building is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the historic character of this area, specifically the triangular block between Henderson Street, Victoria Crescent, and Smith Street. The large mature walnut tree further solidifies the property's connection to the original Chalmers Church, being situated on the property line between the church, the manse and 179 Victoria Crescent. As it is a shared boundary tree, every effort should be made to protect it.

Schedule "C"

Description of Heritage Attributes to be Protected

- Height, scale and massing of the original two-storey stone building
- Coursed rubblestone construction, including ribbon pointing
- Pitch and overhang of the roof
- Fenestration pattern of doors and windows
- Wood windows on south-west facing façade
- All concrete lintels and sills
- Rubblestone foundation on the original section of the building

Excluded from the Heritage Attributes to be Protected

- 1970s/80s board and batten addition
- Outbuildings