

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE
PROPERTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29)

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington intends to designate the property municipally known as 7324 Wellington County Road 21, in the Township of Centre Wellington (Pilkington), as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29).

Description of Historic Place: 7324 Wellington County Rd 21 is located on Pt Lot 1, Con 2 EOGR, in the Township of Centre Wellington, County of Wellington (Former Township of Pilkington). The property is approximately 26 acres and is largely forested on the west side with two agricultural fields on the east side. The property supports four structures which are centrally located on the site: a historic stone house, likely built in 1860; a historic log house, built in 1832 and relocated to this property from Puslinch; a bank barn built around the same time as the stone dwelling; and a garage, build date unknown. The property also contains many mature trees and vegetation and slopes to the Grand River, above the whirlpool. The property is shown in the images below.



Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: The cultural heritage value of 7324 Wellington County Road 21 resides in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

Historic or Associative Value:

The property is significant because it has potential to yield information about the theme of early European settlement and contributes to the rural agricultural history of Centre Wellington. The property is also significant for its association with notable Township residents and families. The stone dwelling on the property was likely built under the ownership of John Marriot in approximately 1860. Marriot had emigrated from England to live in Canada and established his occupation as a farmer. When John Marriot died in 1880, the property was passed on to his wife and it remained in the family until 1905.

James Ross, along with his wife Margaret lived on the property between 1890-1905. Ross is known for serving as Warden of Wellington County for 2 years in 1858-59. He was also a member of the Pilkington Agricultural Society and Elora Horse Association and frequently participated in farm-related events.

The property then passed to the Aitchison family through marriage (1907-1921), listed as farmers. William Aitchison (1919-1920) enlisted to fight in the First World War at the age of 33.

He earned the rank of Corporal and served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry until he was discharged in 1919. Between 1937-1972, the land was farmed by the Watson and then Chamberlain families. It was split in 1972 and the approximately 29.5 acre lot containing the stone house was sold to Pat and Ramelle (Katharin) Harkins.

Pat and Ramelle moved to Canada from the United States and first settled in Winnipeg, later moving to Guelph. Pat would hold two different post-secondary teaching positions in Guelph and Toronto. After moving to Elora, the couple started the Woolwich Dairy Company, specializing in goat cheese products, which was very successful.

The log house was moved to the property by the current owners in the late 1980s. It was built in 1832 by Nicholas Beaver, an early settler in Wellington County, originally from Alsace-Lorraine (now a part of France). It is also thought to have served as a Friends meeting house and be associated with the Canadian Underground Railroad. Today the house is used to store antique items and display art.

The current owners, Daniel Lance Bratton and Carol Williams bought the property in 1984. They currently run The Elora Poetry Centre and Gallery on the property.

Design or Physical Value

The stone dwelling is significant because it is a representative example of an early 19th century stone farmhouse, with some Georgian style elements. It is the main dwelling on the property, built in approximately 1860. The structure is of simple design, one-and-a-half storeys in height and consists of an end-gable roof with a chimney on the west side. Two modern board and batten additions were added at the ground level on the north and east sides of the house.

The main dwelling is constructed of rough-cut fieldstone and rubble stone, likely local. The house was covered in stucco in the 1940s, though much has now been removed. Of interest are the large stone quoins, which adorn the corners of the original dwelling, and the stone sills and voussoirs on each window. The original section of the dwelling features many wood windows in various sizes and configurations. The original main entrance to the dwelling on the south facing façade has been converted to a large window with red-brick surround. The east facing addition features wood windows, salvaged from the Elora Armoury Hall (now LCBO). The two arched fanlights above the French doors on the addition are recreations of the window found on the front door to the Armoury.

The log house built in 1832, known as "Beaver House" was moved to the property from its original location in Puslinch, on the east side of Highway 6. The style is typical for log houses of this period, being rectangular in shape with an end-gabled roof. The log house displays evidence of 19th century construction, including hand-hewn logs with keyed corners, and visible chinking between each log.

The large bank barn is thought to have been built around the same time as the stone house. The original barn burned down around 1900 and was rebuilt with the original foundation remaining. The barn is wooden with a fieldstone foundation and a corrugated metal roof. The concrete silo adjoins the barn.

Contextual Value

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings and contributes to the rural agricultural context of this part of the

Township. The dwelling faces south and likely would have been situated on the lands to maximize natural light and have good views of the property and farmland.

The forested areas on the property largely consist of cultural thickets, with older growth of White Cedar and Sugar maple along the edge of the Grand River. There are many mature trees on the property including two prominent silver maples on either side of the gravel driveway, a stand of seven large hemlock trees towards the river, and five mature apple trees scattered throughout the declining ash tree stand. It is thought that the apple trees would have been planted shortly after the lands were cleared for agriculture.

The property boasts a large frontage along the Grand River, a designated Canadian Heritage River and Cultural Heritage Landscape. It has been sustaining people, flora and fauna for thousands of years, and was most certainly utilized by many past owners and visitors to the property, including local wildlife. The property and poetry centre are also physically and functionally linked to the vibrant arts and culture community within Centre Wellington.

Description of Heritage Attributes of the Dwelling to be Protected:

Log House

- Height, scale and massing of the 1.5 storey log dwelling
- Log construction and materials
- The pitch and overhang of the roof
- Fenestration pattern of doors and windows in their current size and location

Stone Farmhouse

- Height, scale and massing of the original 1.5 storey stone farmhouse
- Fieldstone and rubblestone construction and materials
- The pitch and overhang of the roof
- Chimney on the west side of the dwelling
- Fenestration pattern of doors and windows in their current size and location
- Wooden windows including any original glass in their original locations
- Stone quoins and voussoirs
- Wood veranda and stairs on the south façade
- One-storey north and east board and batten additions including windows salvaged from the Armory Hall

Bank Barn

- Height, scale and massing of the large wood bank barn
- Fieldstone foundation
- Original barn board and log construction
- Lower-level stables for livestock

Landscape

- Two silver maple trees on either side of the driveway, near the barn

Excluded from the Heritage Attributes to be Protected

- Detached Garage
- Interior elements

For further information with respect to the proposed designation please contact Deanna Maiden, Senior Development Planner at (519) 846-9691, ext. 292.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts, may be served to the Clerk of the Township of Centre Wellington on or before January 15th, 2026.



Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington this 15th day of December, 2025.

Kerri O'Kane Clerk
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