

The Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington

By-law 2026-13

A By-law to designate the lands at 64 Colborne Street
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 64 Colborne Street (“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 64 Colborne Street 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

64 Colborne Street, legally described as:

Lot 135, Plan 181, New Survey Elora; Centre Wellington

PIN: 71416-0145 (LT)

Schedule “B”

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Description of Property

The subject property is located at 64 Colborne Street, at the intersection of Colborne and Chalmers Streets and is a residential property on Plan 181, Lot 135 in what was historically known as the Village of Elora, now the Township of Centre Wellington, and is included in the Elora Historical Village Core Cultural Heritage Landscape. It is approximately 0.19 acres and supports a one-and-a-half storey historic dwelling that is believed to have been built between 1870 and 1873. The property is extensively landscaped and features many mature trees, as well two accessory buildings on the western property line.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: The cultural heritage value of 64 Colborne Street resides in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

Historical or Associative Value

The property is significant for its association with early immigration to Elora, as well as the development of the former village. Between the years 1854 and 1999 this property was owned by eleven different owners. The dwelling is believed to have been built between 1870 and 1873 under the ownership of Joseph Gibbs Somers, a tailor, clothier, merchant and former Town councillor, though it is unclear whether he and his family lived at the property.

Many of the owners of the property worked in Elora or had occupations within what is now the Township of Centre Wellington. Thomas Lannen Kelly bought the property in 1873 and worked as a maltster, brewer, hotelkeeper and labourer during his lifetime. George Bruce, owner between 1895 - 1927 worked as a caretaker of the village's public buildings and Harry Rennie, who bought the property in 1927 worked at the T.E Bissell Factory, at the present location of Bissell Park. In 1960, Edward Livingston and his wife Lena bought the property. He worked as a laborer and she as a machine operator. The property ownership history contributes to an understanding of historic occupations and the day-to-day lives of the people living in Elora during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Design or Physical Value

The dwelling at 64 Colborne Street is a representative example of a one-and-a-half storey dwelling designed in the Gothic Revival Cottage or Ontario Farm Cottage style, which includes typical elements such as: an end gabled roof with peaked centre gable and arched window, symmetrical front façade with two segmented-arch main windows, wood windows and storms with some original glass still in place, carved wood door and transom featuring stained glass, and wooden soffits and fascia.

This dwelling was likely constructed out of brick, as evidenced by the red-brick chimneys (replicated), but was likely covered in textured stucco shortly after construction. An early summer kitchen clad in wood lap siding is located at the rear of the dwelling and features a south-west facing porch, though it does not appear to have been constructed with a proper foundation.

Contextual Value

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings and contributes to the historic streetscape of Chalmers and Colborne Streets and the historic fabric of the Elora Historical Village Core Cultural Heritage Landscape. As part of a broader historic area, the house contributes to the architectural continuity and character of Chalmers and Colborne Streets, showcasing Gothic Revival Cottage style elements typical of Centre Wellington's mid-to-late 19th century heritage buildings. The property's location on the corner makes it a visual anchor, reinforcing the Village's reputation, as a well-preserved example of Ontario's historical development. The property is directly linked to the development of the Village of Elora through its owners, who worked in various local industries including hotels, breweries, and local factories.

Schedule "C"

Description of Heritage Attributes to be Protected

- Height, scale and massing of the original one-and-a-half storey stucco-clad dwelling
- Three-bay front façade with central doorway, including transom and trim and central arched upper storey window
- The pitch and overhang of the roof, including the centre-gable and gable ends
- Wood soffits and fascia
- Stucco and brick construction and materials on original section
- Rubblestone foundation under concrete
- Fenestration pattern of windows and doors in their original locations
- Wooden windows and storms in their original locations
- Original wood sills where they are still intact

Excluded from the Heritage Attributes to be Protected

- Summer kitchen addition on the north side of the original dwelling