

**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 179 Victoria Crescent, in the Township of Centre Wellington (Village of Elora), 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: 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. The property is shown in the image below.



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.

Historic 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.

Description of Heritage Attributes of the Dwelling 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

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 15, 2026.



Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington
this 16th day of December 2025.

Kerri O’Kane Clerk
1 MacDonald Square
Elora, Ontario
N0B 1S0
Phone: (519) 846-9691
Fax: (519) 846-2074