



WILSON FARMHOUSE

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The farmhouse built for Robert Wilson III between 1872 and 1891 is a remarkable example of domestic building in stone. Displaying a high degree of craftsmanship, the farmhouse combines reddish-brown Credit Valley sandstone with grey limestone to produce a dichromatic palette in keeping with its High Victorian Gothic style. Welsh arches, a stepped arch around a pointed-arch window, quoins, a cut-stone foundation wall and an unusual heart motif show the mason's skill. The contrast between the cut-stone walls in front and on the south and the rubblestone walls elsewhere is visually interesting. The high quality of the masonry suggests the handiwork of a Scottish-trained mason or team of masons – a probable choice for the Wilson family who had emigrated from Scotland to pioneer in Chinguacousy Township.

Delicately carved bargeboard trimming gable ends, original window sash and interior woodwork add to the farmhouse's historic character.

In addition to the excellence of the stonework and the survival of authentic wooden features, the farmhouse is valuable for the stories it can tell. It tells the story of three generations of the Wilsons, a Scottish immigrant family of the pioneer era who prospered and built a permanent house in the late nineteenth century. The next story in the farmhouse's past is associated with the Allan McLean family and the disruption caused by the tragedy of the First World War. The farmhouse was also central in the lives of subsequent farming families, including the Newhouse family who lived here for over 50 years.

As the farm surrounding it disappears in contemporary residential building, the farmhouse is a tangible reminder of the rural landscape.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Property are the exterior only of the pre-1891 stone farmhouse and the frame addition. Not included is the building's interior.

The following elements of the pre-1891 farmhouse are important to the cultural heritage value or interest of the Property:

- one and half storey massing and L-plan form of the main stone farmhouse
- one storey massing and rectangular form of the rear stone wing
- one storey massing and rectangular form of the frame wing

- steeply pitched cross-gabled roof form
- all multipaned sash windows and segmentally arched window openings
- limestone rubblestone foundation with tooled mortar
- all components of the masonry, including coursed Credit Valley sandstone and limestone trim details on front and south facades, and rubble stone on north and west facades, and pointing styles
- all components of the front entry and door opening, including the transom light