



## Planning and Development Services

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Prepared for: Regular Council

Report: PDS-22-2024

Meeting Date: April 22, 2024

### 1. Title

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Heritage Property Designation – 5187 Sherkston Road

### 2. Recommendations

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**That:** Council approves the designation of 5187 Sherkston Road as outlined in this report, for architectural, historical and contextual attributes and reasons, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; pursuant to the recommendation of the Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, and further

**That:** Council directs staff to prepare a Designation By-law and provide Notice of Intention to Designate in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### 3. Relation to Council's Corporate Strategic Plan

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Priority: Sustainable and managed growth

Initiative: Number of designated heritage properties.

### 4. List of Stakeholders

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- The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
- Residents of the Town of Fort Erie
- Municipal Heritage Standing Committee/ Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee
- Archeological Research Associates Ltd (ARA)
- Owner of 5187 Sherkston Road

### 5. Purpose of Report

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The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee's (MCHAC) recommendation to designate 5187 Sherkston Road under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, as significant from an architectural, contextual, and historical perspective, as well as provide background associated with the recommendation.

It is important to note that on January 13, 2023, staff on behalf of the Municipal Heritage Standing Committee sent a letter by mail to the property owner inviting them to provide feedback relative to their interest in heritage designation. The property owner provided a response to the town that indicated they were interested in receiving more information regarding heritage

designation. The evaluation report completed by ARA and details surrounding the recommendation of the MCHAC were provided by email to the property owner on March 14, 2024. The owner indicated that they wish to decline to consideration for heritage designation. They expressed concerns with respect to the review and assessment process for modifications, and the possible restrictions that designation may place on the future use of the property.

## 6. Background

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The background information is attached as **Appendix 1**.

## 7. Analysis

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The property known municipally as 5187 Sherkston Road is located on the rural outskirts of the historic settlement of Ridgeway, as shown in **Appendix 2**. Situated on the property is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmstead in the approximate middle of the 100-acre lot on the south side of Sherkston Road. The subject property is surrounded by Ontario Farmsteads with one to two and a half-storey farm houses, barns, various outbuildings, and fields under agricultural use. The property has been identified by ARA and by the MHSC as having architectural, contextual, and historical value and interest.

The property was listed on the Fort Erie Municipal Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest in 2011 pursuant to Report CDS-53-2011. The listing of the property was not appealed by the property owner at that time.

An evaluation of the subject lands was carried out by ARA and determined that 5187 Sherkston Road meets three of the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest as outlined in O. Reg. 9/06 and therefore is worthy of designation. The evaluation performed by ARA is attached as **Appendix 3**.

In March 2024, MHSC met to consider the designation of 5187 Sherkston Road according to its Heritage Property Evaluation process. In its evaluation, the Committee used three criteria as set out in the Heritage Act and O. Reg 9/06. The Heritage Property Evaluation scored 5187 Sherkston Road at 316. A score of 75 or more is considered of major significance and importance and worthy of designation. The evaluation criteria and scoring for 5187 Sherkston Road are attached as **Appendix 4**.

At its meeting on March 13, 2024, the MCHAC passed the following motion:

*That the Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee recommends the designation of 5187 Sherkston Road, Fort Erie for architectural, historical, and contextual attributes and reason, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.*

### Reasons for Designation

5187 Sherkston Road is a representative example of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmstead. The property has a centralized 'farmstead' composed of a clustered grouping of buildings, including a farmhouse, Central Ontario Barn, drive shed, and milkhouse.

The subject property contains a representative example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse. The two-storey red brick farmhouse retains much of the original historic fabric. The overall massing, roof line, fenestration, windows, and large gable end with dichromatic brickwork are reflective of

a Gothic Revival farmhouse architectural style. Further, the barn is a representative example of a Central Ontario barn (also known as a “bank barn”).

Through its research, ARA identified that 5187 Sherkston Road has historical and associative value due to its longstanding and significant association with members of the Sherk family. Patriarch Michael Sherk, a Mennonite from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, moved his family to Ontario around 1790 and purchased the subject property in 1803. The subject property has remained in the Sherk family for over 200 years and continues to support and maintain the agricultural and rural character of the area.

### Cultural Heritage Attributes

Key elements that contribute to the heritage value of 5187 Sherkston Road include:

- Location on Sherkston Road, near Sherk’s Corners, now Sherkston
- 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead including a farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed
  - Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step
  - Engraved gatepost cap which read “M.B. Sherk 1916”
- Two story brick Gothic Revival farmhouse
  - L-shaped plan
  - Cross gable roof
  - Large two bay front gable with projecting bay window
  - All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills
  - Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends
  - Stone foundation
  - Covered porch with stone foundation
  - Inscribed ordinance stone
- Large bank barn
  - T-shaped plan
  - Vertical barn board
  - Gable roof

### Designation Process

If Council recommends moving forward with the designation of 5187 Sherkston Road, staff will prepare the “Notice of Intent to Designate” to be published in the local newspaper and to serve to the property owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust. If no objections are received within 30 days of the notice being circulated, staff will bring forward the designating by-law for Council’s approval. Once the by-law has been passed, a Notice of Designation is published in the local newspaper and provided to the property owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust, and the property is listed on the municipal and provincial registers.

As noted earlier in the report, if there is an objection during the 30-day appeal period, the objection is referred to the Ontario Land Tribunal, which schedules a hearing and makes a final and binding decision on the designation.

## **8. Financial, Staffing and Accessibility (AODA) Implications**

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The MHSC has the mandate to advise Council on matters pertaining to heritage importance, particularly regarding the designation of properties under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The Junior Community Planner is the staff liaison for the Committee.

The property is privately owned and therefore could be considered under the Town's Heritage Tax Rebate Program which provides a 40% tax rebate to a maximum assessed value of \$500,000, in addition to regional and educational rebates.

Further, the property could be considered under the town's Designated Heritage Property Grant Program, which allows a property owner to apply for a grant of up to 50% of eligible maintenance, preservation, and conservation costs to an upset limit of \$10,000 for work performed to the identified heritage attributes of a designated property.

## **9. Policies Affecting Proposal**

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In accordance with the Town's Official Plan, the Town will actively promote cultural heritage and conservation in all applicable municipal activities in recognition of the non-renewable nature of cultural heritage resources, as well as the contribution they make to the character, civic pride, tourism potential, economic benefits and historical appreciation of the community.

Further, Council may consult with the MHSC in matters relating to the conservation of built heritage within the Town of Fort Erie. The MHSC may identify through the ongoing inventory, or on a case-by-case basis, properties of architectural and historical interest and recommend to Council those heritage properties considered worthy of designation under Parts IV and V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

## **10. Comments from Departments, Community and Corporate Partners**

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The recommendation of the MHSC and evaluation by ARA are identified in this report.

## **11. Alternatives**

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Council can choose not to support the MHSC recommendation to designate; however, it is not recommended as the MHSC and ARA have assessed this site in accordance with the established criteria under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

## **12. Communicating Results**

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If approved, a Notice of the Intention to Designate will be provided to the owner in accordance with Section 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the Ontario Heritage Trust, and placed in the Fort Erie Observer, as required under Section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### **13. Conclusion**

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The Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (MCHAC) recommends the designation of 5187 Sherkston Road under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* because it is significant from an architectural, contextual, and historical perspective as outlined in **Appendix 5**.

### **14. Report Approval**

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Director – Planning and Development Services

Approved by:  
Chris McQueen, MBA  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **15. Attachments**

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Appendix 1 – Background Information  
Appendix 2 – Location Map  
Appendix 3 – Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. Evaluation Report  
Appendix 4 – MCHAC Heritage Property Evaluation  
Appendix 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

## **Background Information - Appendix 1**

The Municipal Heritage Standing Committee (MHSC) was established by Council in 2012. The role of the MHSC is to:

- Identify and maintain an ongoing inventory of properties which have been designated by Council under the Ontario Heritage Act;
- Identify and maintain an ongoing inventory of non-designated properties which may be considered for designation;
- Make recommendations to Council through Staff, as to properties which in the opinion of the Committee, are considered to be of cultural heritage value or interest for their architectural, contextual, and/or historical value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act and should be designated;
- Make recommendations to Council, through staff, as to non-designated properties which in the opinion of the Committee, should be added to the Municipal Registry as non-designated properties which it believes to be of cultural heritage value or interest for their architectural, contextual, and/or historical value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act and should be considered for designation in the future; and
- Make recommendations to Council, through Staff, as to criteria for the evaluation of properties of cultural heritage value or interest for their architectural, contextual, and/or historical value or interest.

In order for a building, structure or landscape to be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, it must pass through the “Six Key Steps to Designating an Individual Property under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act”. These steps include:

1. Identifying the property as a candidate for designation
2. Researching and evaluating the property
3. Serving the Notice of Intention to Designate, with an opportunity for objection
4. Passing and registering the Designation By-law
5. Listing the property on the municipal register
6. Listing the property on the provincial register

### Impact of Designation

The designation of a building, structure or landscape under the Ontario Heritage Act can have a number of impacts specifically related to proposed alterations or demolition:

- Alterations are permitted under Section 33 of the Ontario Heritage Act through an application to Council for the proposed work. Generally speaking, this should be a cooperative process, where a property owner applies and receives advice and guidance from the Municipal Heritage Standing Committee and/or municipal staff. All heritage permit applications are subject to a final decision made by Council.
- As of April 2005, designation under the Ontario Heritage Act gives Council the power to prevent the demolition of a building or structure on a heritage

property. If the owner of a designated property wishes to demolish or remove a building or structure, the owner must obtain written consent from Council.

- Property designation can also benefit the owner in the form of financial support via Heritage Tax Rebates, and various grant and loan programs to help with conservation and ongoing maintenance.

As indicated earlier, in order for a building, structure or landscape to be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, it must be assessed with respect to the following general criteria according to Ontario Regulation 9/06 as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22:

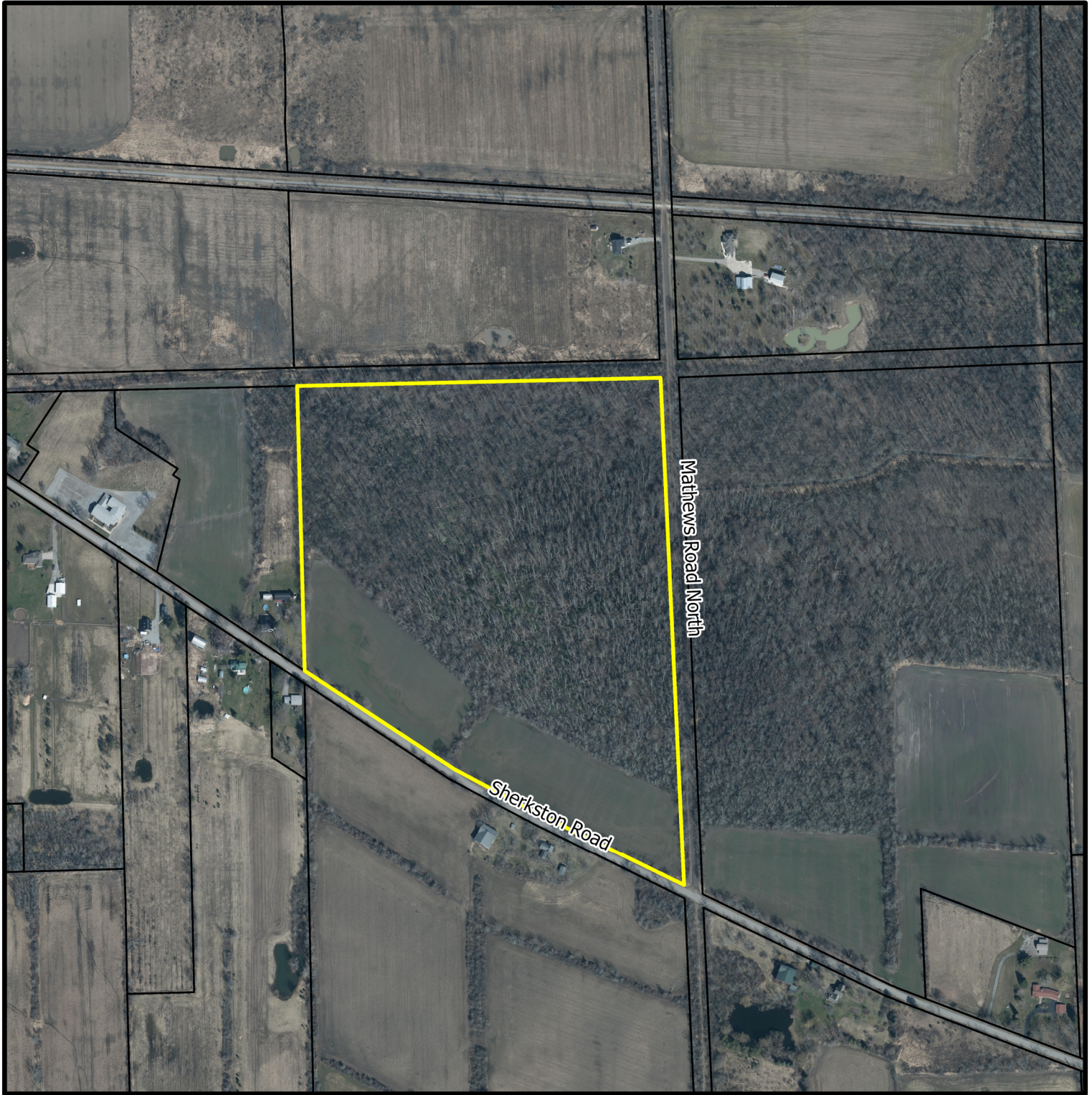
1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.
5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark. O. Reg. 569/22,

In accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act and in respect of a property for which a notice of intention to designate is given under subsection 29 (1.1) of the Act on or after January 1, 2023, the property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the criteria described above.


On April 12, 2023, the Town of Fort Erie issued a Request for Proposal (PDS-23P0HERT23) in order to obtain consulting services to undertake research, prepare Heritage Designation Reports, and prepare designation documentation for properties on the Municipal Heritage Register that are identified for potential designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, based on the priorities of the MHSC. As a result, Archaeological Research Associates LTD entered into an agreement with the Town of Fort Erie for the services described in the RFP.

In addition to the detailed research and evaluation report provided by ARA, the MHSC developed a set of evaluation criteria guidelines to provide a more structured methodology to review architectural, historical, and contextual attributes. When the MHSC developed the criteria, they determined that any building or structure constructed between 1812 and 1837 was worthy of 75 points. The MHSC recognizes the importance of protecting some of the town's oldest structures and puts priority on age when deciding that a score of 75 points or more (out of a total of 686 points) indicates a property, building, or cultural landscape that is of major significance or importance and is therefore worthy of designation.





## LOCATION PLAN

 Subject Lands - 5187 Sherkston Road

0 70 140 280 Meters



Planning & Development Services  
Map created on April 11, 2024



**Evaluation of 5187 Sherkston Road  
According to *Ontario Regulation 9/06*  
Ridgeway  
Town of Fort Erie**

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## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

ARA – Archaeological Research Associates Ltd.  
CHVI – Cultural Heritage Value or Interest  
GTR- Grand Trunk Railway  
HRC- Heritage Resource Center  
LAC – Library and Archives Canada  
LRO – Land Registry Office  
MCM – Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
MMAH – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
OHA – Ontario Heritage Act  
O. Reg. – Ontario Regulation  
WTPH – Welland Tribune Printing House

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Fort Erie has requested that Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) evaluate the cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) of 5187 Sherkston Road according to *Ontario Regulation 9/06* as amended by *Ontario Regulation 569/22 (O. Reg.)* to determine if the property is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)*.

## 2.0 METHOD

This report examines the design of the property, presents its history and describes its context.

### 2.1 Field Survey

A field survey was conducted on July 21, 2023. Permission to Enter was provided by the property owner, who was present during the site visit. The property and exterior of the building were viewed and photographed. Limited interior access was granted by the property owner, the front room and basement were examined and photographed.

### 2.2 Research

Background information was obtained from historical maps (i.e., illustrated atlases), archival sources (i.e., historical publications and records) and published secondary sources (online and print).

### 2.3 Consultation

The Town of Fort Erie initiated this report as one of the properties prioritized for designation by the Municipal Heritage Committee as a result of changes to the *OHA* brought on by Bill 23. Specifically, this work addresses the deadline for all listed properties to be designated, or removed from the Heritage Register, within two years (January 1, 2025).

### 2.4 Method Conclusion

Using the results of the field survey and research detailed above, the CHVI of 5187 Sherkston Road is evaluated against the criteria prescribed in *O. Reg. 9/06* of the *OHA*. If the property meets two or more criteria, a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest is then provided including a list of heritage attributes.

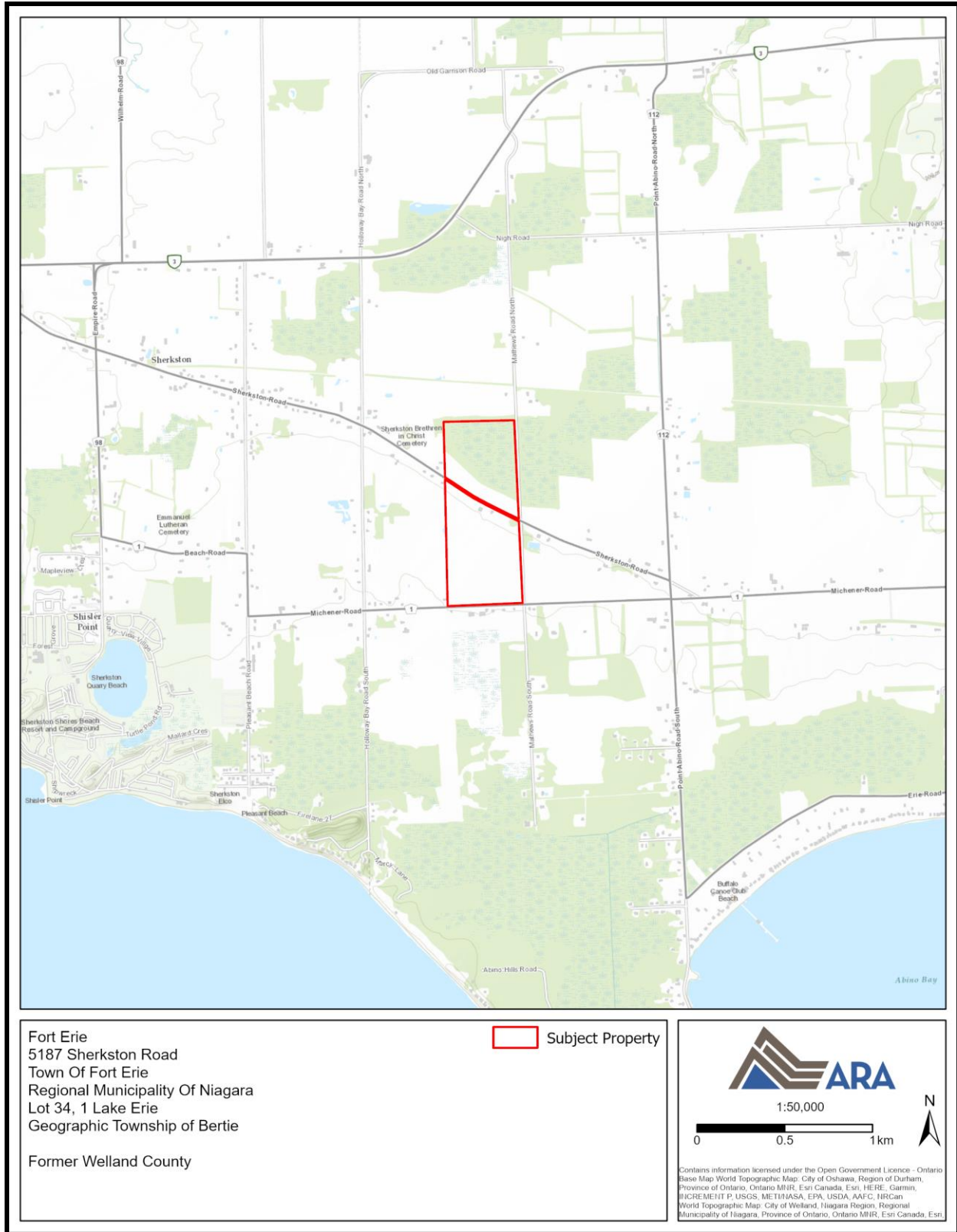
## 3.0 PROPERTY INFORMATION

Civic Address: 5187 Sherkston Road, Ridgeway, Town of Fort Erie, ON

Common Name: The Sherk House

Legal Description: PART LOT 34, CONCESSION 1 LAKE ERIE, BERTIE TOWNSHIP, FORT ERIE.

The location of the subject property is displayed in Map 1 and Map 2.



**Map 1: Subject Property in the Town of Fort Erie**  
 (Produced by ARA under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)





**Map 2: Subject Property on Current Aerial Image**  
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; Google Earth 2022)

## 4.0 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

### 4.1 Federal Legislation

At the national level, *The Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (Parks Canada 2010) provides guidance for the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic places, including cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs) and built heritage resources (BHRs). Such guidance includes the planning and implementation of heritage conservation activities.

With respect to CHLs, the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places* define them as “any geographical area that has been modified, influenced or given special cultural meaning by people, and that has been formally recognized for its heritage value” (Parks Canada 2010:113). The *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places* identifies the three categories of cultural landscapes which are also contained within the UNESCO (2010) Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention: designed; organically evolved (vernacular); and associative. The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) *Information Sheet #2 Cultural Heritage Landscapes* (2006c:1-2) continues these definitions:

- **Designed Cultural Landscapes** – These are areas that are clearly defined and created intentionally by human design. They may include garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons and may be associated with religious or monumental buildings.
- **Evolved Cultural Landscapes** – This type of landscape is often the result of a social, economic, administrative and/or religious motivation that has continued to develop into its present form due to associations with, or in response to, its natural environment. There are two sub-categories of this CHL type:
  - Relic Landscape – One in which an evolutionary process came to an end but its significant distinguishing features are still visible.
  - Continuing Landscape – One that retains associations with traditional practices but which retains an active social role in the current community while continuing to evolve and exhibit material evidence of this ongoing evolution.
- **Associative Cultural Landscapes** – These landscapes have religious, artistic, or cultural associations with nature rather than with material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or absent.

The *Standards and Guidelines* further outlines specific guidelines for cultural heritage landscapes, including 11 subsections on: “evidence of land use; evidence of traditional practices; land patterns; spatial organization; visual relationships; circulation; ecological features; vegetation; landforms; water features; and built features” (Parks Canada 2010:50).

### 4.2 Provincial Policies and Guidelines

#### 4.2.1 The Planning Act

In Ontario, the *Planning Act* is the primary document used by provincial and municipal governments in land use planning decisions. The purpose of the *Planning Act* is outlined in Section 1.1 of the Act, which states:

1.1 The purposes of this Act are,

- (a) to promote sustainable economic development in a healthy natural environment within the policy and by the means provided under this Act;
- (b) to provide for a land use planning system led by provincial policy;
- (c) to integrate matters of provincial interest in provincial and municipal planning decisions;
- (d) to provide for planning processes that are fair by making them open, accessible, timely and efficient;
- (e) to encourage co-operation and co-ordination among various interests;
- (f) to recognize the decision-making authority and accountability of municipal councils in planning. 1994, c. 23, s. 4.

*Part I Provincial Administration, Section 2 states:*

*The Minister, the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board and the Municipal Board, in carrying out their responsibilities under the Act, shall have regard to, among other matters, matters of provincial interest such as, (d) the conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological, or scientific interest. 1990: Part I (2. d).*

*Part I Provincial Administration, Section 3, 5 Policy statements and provincial plans states:*

*A decision of the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister of the Crown and a ministry, board, commission or agency of the government, including the Tribunal, in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter,*

- (a) shall be consistent with the policy statements issued under subsection (1) that are in effect on the date of the decision; and*
- (b) shall conform with the provincial plans that are in effect on that date, or shall not conflict with them, as the case may be. 2006, c. 23, s. 5; 2017, c. 23, Sched. 5, s. 80.*

The current *Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)*, issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act*, came into effect May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

#### **4.2.2 The Provincial Policy Statement (2020)**

The *Provincial Policy Statement (PPS 2020)* contains a combined statement of the Province's land use planning policies. It provides the provincial government's policies on a range of land use planning issues including cultural heritage outlined in Section 1.7 c) as including:

*Ontario's long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being depend on conserving biodiversity, protecting the health of the Great Lakes, and protecting natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral and cultural heritage and archaeological resources for their economic, environmental and social benefits (Section 1.7 e) MMAH 2020:24).*

The *PPS 2020* promotes the conservation of cultural heritage resources through detailed policies in Section 2.6, such as 2.6.1 Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved" and

*2.6.3 Planning authorities shall not permit development and site alteration on adjacent lands to protected heritage property except where the proposed development and site alteration has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that the heritage attributes of the protected heritage property will be conserved (MMAH 2020:31).*

#### **4.2.3 Ontario Heritage Act**

The *OHA*, R.S.O. 1990, c.018 is the guiding piece of provincial legislation for the conservation of significant cultural heritage resources in Ontario. The *OHA* gives provincial and municipal governments the authority and power to conserve Ontario's heritage. The *OHA* has policies which address individual properties (Part IV) and heritage districts (Part IV), which require municipalities to keep a register of such properties and allows the municipalities to list non-designated properties which may have cultural heritage value or interest (Section 27).

In order to objectively identify cultural heritage resources, O. Reg. 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg, 569/22) made under the *OHA* sets out nine criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) (MCM 2006b:20–27). The criteria set out in the regulation were developed to identify and evaluate properties for designation under the *OHA*. Best practices in evaluating properties that are not yet protected employ O. Reg. 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg, 569/22) to determine if they have CHVI. These nine criteria are:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
6. The property has historical value or associative value because it, demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark. (O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (2)).

The *OHA* provides three key tools for the conservation of built heritage resources (BHRs) and cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs). It allows for protection as:

1. A single property (i.e., farmstead, park, garden, estate, cemetery), a municipality can designate BHRs and CHLs as individual properties under Part IV of the *OHA*.

2. Multiple properties or a specific grouping of properties may be considered a CHL, as such, a municipality can designate the area as a Heritage Conservation District (HCD) under Part V of the *OHA*.
3. Lastly, a municipality has the authority to add an individual or grouping of non-*OHA* designated property(ies) (often called “listed” properties) of heritage value or interest on their Municipal Heritage Register.

## 5.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 5.1 Design Comparative Analysis

An examination of the history of farmsteads, with a focus on Ontario farmhouses and their associated barns, informs a comparative analysis of the subject property.

#### 5.1.1 19<sup>th</sup> Century Farmstead

The “Historic Ontario Farmstead Typology”, as established by ERA architects, outlines distinct built characteristics and landscape patterns associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads (see Figure 1). This typology typically includes the following features: main farmhouse, main barn, secondary barns/outbuildings, silo/s, entrance driveways which are framed (often with vegetation of pillars), a front yard, mature trees, rear or side fields, drive lanes, woodlot/s, and wind rows along property edges (ERA 2020). Additionally, 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads in Ontario can be described as:

*Ontario’s farms are the creations of immigrants of varied backgrounds who often showed disdain, if not outright hostility, for their neighbours. The landscape mirrors this outlook: no residential farm villages, a system of public roads that bypass farm buildings, and private lanes leading to them. Building sites varied with local conditions but tended to be set well back on the lots. Here was privacy, freedom from the “disagreeable necessity” of gazing at one’s neighbour, and security from passers-by helping themselves to the orchard or kitchen garden (McIlwraith 1997:241).*

When compared against the typical characteristics of “Historic Ontario Farmstead Typology”, the subject property displays many of the features. The subject property can be considered a representative example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Characteristics of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ontario Farmstead**  
(adapted from ERA 2020, McIlwraith 1997; Shearer 2012; Williams 2014)

| Characteristics  | 5187 Sherkston Road Characteristics |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Centralized ‘farmstead’ composed of clustered grouping of houses, barns, and ancillary buildings, connected by walkways and laneways | Yes                                 |
| Farmstead landscape may include remnants of nearby kitchen gardens and orchards  | Yes                                 |
| Farmstead framed by trees and perennial plantings to provide shelter from sun and wind   | Yes                                 |
| Farmstead placed on raised setting where possible  | Yes                                 |
| Entrance driveway leading to farmstead, often lined with mature trees  | No                                  |
| If present, farmstead placed near natural water source   | No                                  |
| Farmstead set back from roadway with farmhouse placed nearest to road  | No                                  |
| Barn positioned into slope for allow for two storey exterior access  | Yes                                 |
| Outbuildings, possible adapted retrofit of early log shanties  | Yes                                 |
| Drive lanes providing access to barn/outbuildings  | Yes                                 |

| Characteristics   | 5187 Sherkeston Road Characteristics |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Paddock, placed in proximity to barn and outbuildings                                 | No                                   |
| Silo  | No                                   |
| Rear fields, connected to farmstead through drive lanes                               | Yes                                  |
| Rear woodlot  | Yes                                  |
| Wind rows along property edge, placed with consideration to prevailing wind direction | Yes                                  |

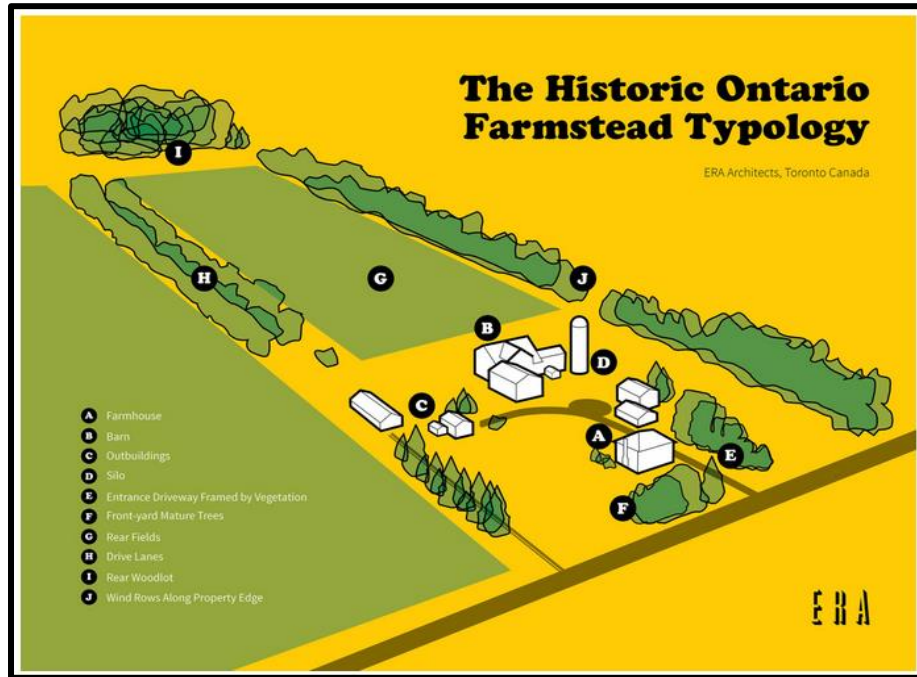


Figure 1: Historic Ontario Farmstead Typology (ERA Architects 2020)



Figure 2: Historical Ontario Farmsteads (Illustration from Perth County Historical Atlas, 1879)

The design of the “Ontario Farmhouse” is an important element of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead. The simple prototype is flexible and highly adaptable allowing for individual variations and decorative finishing elements to be applied as desired. These finishes often sought to emphasize a particular architectural style or included selected characteristics or features of various styles. In Ontario, farmhouses typically embodied Gothic Revival or Italianate architecture features. Gothic Revival architecture style is expressed by the inclusion of steep gables, general symmetry from part to part, projecting or recessed Bays, porches with split post and shallow roof which span frontage, dichromatic brickwork. Italianate architecture style is expressed by paired window openings with arch windows, wide eaves and paired brackets. While the subject property displays Italianate influences, the details and architectural features of the subject building are best aligned with the Gothic Revival architecture.

### **5.1.2 Gothic Revival**

The Gothic Revival architecture style is rooted in medieval architecture and originated in England in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. According to McAlester, the style is traced back to 1749, when Sir Horace Walpole “began remodeling his country house in the Medieval style, complete with battlements and multiple pointed-arch windows” (1992:200). Over the following century, the number of buildings which followed Gothic Revival principles increased so dramatically, likely the result of promotion by English architect A.W.N. Pugin, that they become commonplace throughout England (McAlester 1992).

In North America, the publication of design plans and patterns by Andrew Downing in 1842 (*Cottage Residences*) and in 1850 (*The Architecture of Country Houses*) popularized the style (McAlester 1992:200). With a great number of early settlers to Ontario being of English descent, it is not surprising that Gothic Revival architecture “first appeared [In Canada] in the 1820’s and continued throughout the rest of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century” (Ricketts et al 2011: 55). As one of the most enduring of the revival style, the variation of the style’s application from residence to churches is evident throughout Ontario.

According to Ricketts et al., “the style proved to be surprisingly adaptable, fluid, open to new interpretations with every new generation of architects” without losing the quintessential features that distinguish the style (2011:73). As a result, several subcategories of the style emerge in Canada including Romantic Gothic Revival Style (circa 1820), Ecclesiological Gothic Revival Style (circa 1840), High Victoria Gothic Revival Style (circa 1850s), and French Gothic Revival Style (end of 19<sup>th</sup> century) (Ricketts et al. 2011). Not all Gothic Revival architecture is done of such a grand scale as the style’s application to smaller more modest residence is also widespread. In Ontario specifically, the Gothic Revival Cottage, also known as the Ontario Cottage, became one of “the most pervasive Ontario residential style prior to 1950” (Kyles 2016).

One stylistic feature which was often applied to Gothic Revival architecture is dichromatic brickwork. Dichromatic brickwork became popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England which influenced its use in Ontario beginning in the 1870s (Richie 1979). The use of dichromatic brickwork was very popular and applied to many buildings of various architectural styles constructed in 1870s and 1880s and continued to be applied to buildings in the following decades (Richie 1979). The most typical combination is yellow or buff brick detailing on red brick, however this combination reverses in regions where “clay brickmaking normally burned to a yellow colour, in which case red bricks provide the colour contrast” (Richie 1979:60). The contrasting detailing is typically found at the corners, around door and windows openings as well as in decorative band/patterns and accordingly “its application in many cases did not require any great skill on the part of the

bricklayer” (1979:61). The subject farmhouse at 5187 Sherkston Road demonstrates the stylistic inclusion of dichromatic brickwork.

In 1864 *Canada Farmer*, published three Gothic Revival prototypes: 1) “a small Gothic Cottage”, 2) “a suburban villa or farm house”, and 3) “A Cheap Farm House”. The prevalence of these styles in Ontario’s countryside is related to the pattern’s promotion in this free and easily accessible bi-weekly publication. The articles provide a sets of design guidelines for the construction of a house to accommodate large families; specifically, “A Suburban Villa or Farm House” in Vol. 1, No. 9. The article notes this prototype “... can be built with either brick, wood or stone, without interfering with the design...” (see Figure 3) (Brown 1864 vol. 1/no. 9:132).



**Figure 3: “Suburban Villa or Farm House” The Canada Farmer (Brown 1864 vol 1/no. 9:132)**

The farmhouse at 5187 Sherkston Road is an example of the “Suburban Villa or Farm House” (Figure 3) that best align with the Gothic Revival architectural style principles outlined in this prototype. See Table 2 for a comparison of known characteristics of Gothic Revival style and features of the subject farmhouse at 5187 Sherkston Road.

**Table 2: Characteristics of Gothic Revival Architecture (Adapted from Kyles 2016, Blumenson 1990, HRC 2009; Fram 2003)**

| Characteristics                      | 5187 Sherkston Road Characteristics | Notes         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| One-and-a-half to two-storeys        | Yes                                 | Two storeys   |
| Rectangle, L-shaped or T-shaped plan | Yes                                 | L-shaped plan |
| Steep Roof Pitch                     | Yes                                 |               |



|  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| Generally symmetrical from part to part, though independent parts might be assembled irregularly | Yes |   |
| Projecting or Recessed Bays  | Yes |   |
| Vertical Emphasis  | Yes | Long narrow window openings emphasize verticality |
| Multiple Gables  | Yes |   |
| Pointed Arches For Windows and Entrances   | No  | Openings are segmentally arched                   |
| Porches with split post and shallow roof which span frontage                                     | Yes |   |
| Decorative woodwork (expressed in finials, trim, verge boards, verandahs or entrances)           | No  |   |
| Dichromatic Brickwork.   | Yes |   |

When examined against the typical characteristics of the Gothic Revival style as outlined by M. Fram in *Well-Preserved: The Ontario Heritage Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation* (2003), the Heritage Resources Centre's (HRC) *Ontario Architectural Style Guide* (2009), Blumenson's *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the Present* (1990), Ricketts et. al. in *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles* (1992), and in *Ontario Architecture* (Kyles 2016b), the building meets more than half of the characteristics of the style and therefore can be considered representative (see Table 2).

### 5.1.3 Central Ontario Barn

The property also contains a Central Ontario Barn. Also referred to as "bank barns", these structures were often built into the side of a hill, or bank, allowing both the upper and lower floors to be accessed from ground level, with one access at the top of the hill and the other at the bottom. Often the ground floor in a bank barn is used as stables for cattle, horses and other livestock. One side of the barn is then "banked" so that there is a ramp for wagons or tractors to drive up to the mow (Kyles 2016a). Typical features of this barn style are described by Ennals as:

*...usually about 40-50 feet in width and 60-100 feet in length. It is a wooden structure placed upon a stone foundation wall about 10 feet in height, and can have either a gable or a gambrel roof. Thus there are two storeys - a lower stable area and an upper space which combines crop storage, implement storage, and working space. Access to the ground floor is provided by doorways leading to the farmyard, and entry to the upper level is by means of an earthen ramp leading to a large door in the long side. This type of barn is frequently called a bank barn in southern Ontario. The barn is often set into a slope so that direct entry into the upper level can be obtained from the top of the slope. (Where no slope was available, an earth ramp was created which gave entry to the upper level.) (1972:256).*

When examined against the typical characteristics of the Central Ontario Barn styles as outlined by Kyles in *Ontario Architecture* (2016a) and Ennals' discussion of the Central Ontario Barn type (1972; Table 3), the barn meets all of the characteristics of the style and can be considered a representative example.

**Table 3: Characteristics of the Central Ontario Barn**  
(adapted from Ennals 1972; Kyles 2016a)

| Characteristics                      | 5187 Sherkston Road Characteristics |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Large, two storeys                   | Yes                                 |
| Two mows at right angles             | Yes                                 |
| Wooden structure on stone foundation | Yes                                 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Gable or gambrel roof                                     | Yes |
| Ramp leading to large door on long side                   | Yes |
| Set into a slope (bank barn) with large door on long side | Yes |
| Timber or Lumber frame construction                       | Yes |

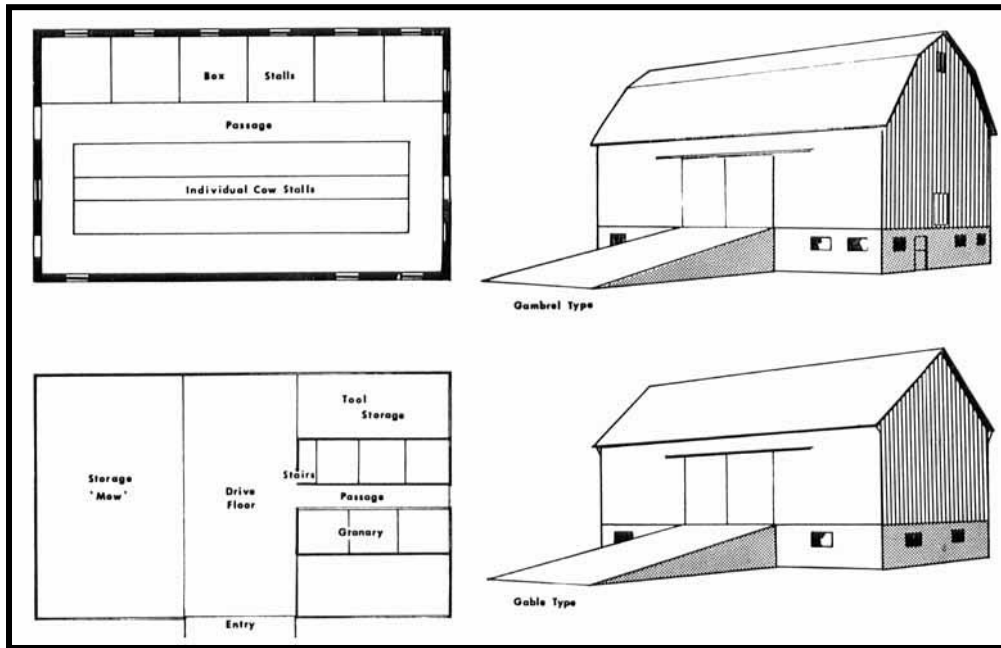


Figure 4: Central Ontario Barn  
(Ennals 1972:257)

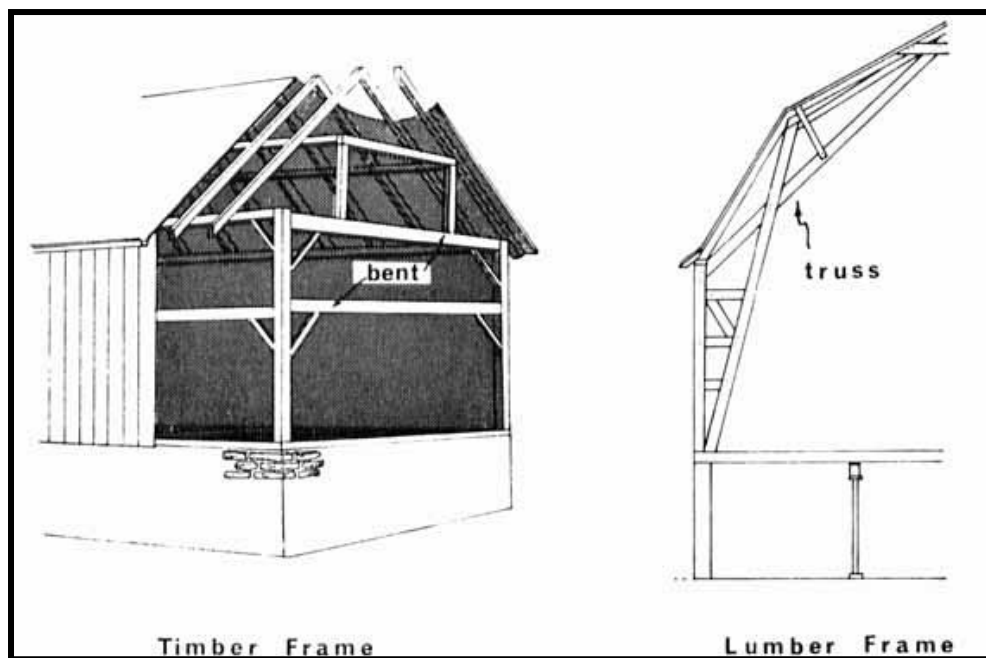


Figure 5: 19th Century Barn Construction Types  
(Ennals 1972:257)

### 5.1.1 Comparative Conclusions

As a result of the analysis in this report, the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead at 5187 Sherkston Road is in keeping with the “Historic Ontario Farmstead Typology” modelled by ERA. While the components of the farmstead are not rare or unique in nature; together, are representation of the farmstead as an Evolved Cultural Heritage Landscape. The tangible growth of the farm over time (see **Error! Reference source not found.**) has preserved the components of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead from any major changes thus conserving its essence (see Map 2). While the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, as a whole, acts like a CHL, the house and the barn are representative example of their respective styles in the area. Further evaluation of CHVI is conducted in the Section 8.0.

### 5.1.2 Exterior – Subject Property – 5187 Sherkston Road

5187 Sherkston Road is a 100-acre parcel of land upon which has been used for agricultural purposes since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Currently, the 200-acre parcel is bound by other farm operations to the north and west, by Michener Road to the south and Matthews Road to the east. The property is bisected by Sherkston Road. The structures include a house, barn, drive shed and milkhouse, as well as remnants of a lime kiln and a gas well. The buildings are clustered together and have a modest set back on the south side of Sherkston Road. There are currently crops planted to the rear (south) and west of the house as well as to the north of Sherkston Road, across the street from the building cluster. A large tree stand occupied the north third of the property (Map 1).

A description of the architecture/design of the buildings at 5187 Sherkston Road is as follows:

- Two-storey frame brick-clad building follows a L-shaped plan (Image 1)
  - Front gable roof with a side gable on the northwest (side) elevation and one-storey addition on the rear (Image 1, Image 9, Image 21)
    - Roof is finished in asphalt shingles
  - The frame house is clad in red brick with buff brick under the waterline, projecting mould-like buff brick voussoirs and buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends (Image 6 Image 8 Image 10 and Image 11)
  - Segmentally arched window and door openings are topped by a buff brick voussoir and supported by dressed stone sills (Image 10)
    - Most windows are single-paned sash with some two-paned, and four-over-four storms (Image 3, Image 5, Image 6, and Image 10)
    - Basement window openings are rectangular with red brick voussoirs (Image 10)
  - The foundation has been parged, though some dressed stone foundation is visible beneath the parging (see Image 11, Image 12)
  - The façade is asymmetrical however there is an overall cohesiveness in design from part to part
  - The side gable portion has three bays
  - On the first storey there are two entryways entirely sheltered by a porch (Image 1, Image 3, Image 4) and a large gable end with a projecting one-storey bay below two symmetrically placed segmentally arched windows on upper storey (Image 1, Image 5, Image 6 and Image 7)
    - A buff brick circular brick feature is found in the gable peak
    - The porch is shed roof-covered supported by split posts on a stone base

- The stone porch base includes a carved ordnance stone noting Lot “34. 1806. S+S”. It was in 1806 that Samuel Sherk purchased the 200-acre lot from his father Michael
- Stones used for base of porch share a similar appearance to the stone wall
  - It is possible that this porch was added and/or updated at the time the stone wall was constructed in 1916 (A. Herlovitch. Pers. Communication), however, no corroborating evidence was found to confirm this.
- Southeast elevation is two-bay with segmentally arched windows
- The rear, or southwest elevation, gable end has a two-bay second storey over a one-bay first storey, the one-storey kitchen addition projects from this portion of the rear elevation
  - The frame addition is accessed by a door on each elevation and is lighted by square and rectangular window openings (Image 15). It has a gable roof and is made with clapboard (in part) and cove siding (in part)
- The side gable’s rear elevation is mostly obscured by the addition; however, one segmentally arched window is visible (Image 8, Image 9, Image 13-Image 18)
- Northwest elevation is two-bay with segmentally arched windows on both storeys
  - The buff-brick circle detail is featured in this gable end as well (Image 19-Image 21)
- A long stone wall runs along the south side of Sherkston Road in front of the buildings with two small gateposts framing a concrete pedestrian pathway
  - Smooth large stones were used to build the wall, similar to those used in the porch
  - The gate post retain the iron rings which likely were used as hitching post
  - The concrete buggy step remains at end of pathway (Image 23)
  - One concrete gatepost has the name “M.B. Sherk 1916” inscribed, likely stands for Martin Benjamin Sherk, who’s ownership under which the extant house was constructed (Image 24)
  - The other concrete gatepost has the remnants of a baby’s footprints which according to the current owner, belonged to her mother, MB Sherk’s daughter (Pers. comm)
- Outbuildings include:
  - Small frame cross gable milk house still occupies a small footprint along the front lawn between the house and barn (Image 22)
  - Drive shed behind main building with a front gable roof, a large sliding door entryway in the gable end facing Sherkston Road and limited window openings, clad with vertical barnboard (Image 26)
- Extant farming infrastructure includes:
  - Remnants of the property’s own gas well south of Sherkston Road in the east corner
  - Remnants of the lime kiln in the rear (south) farm field, still visible from aerial photographs as the crops are planted around the remnants within the small tree stand (Image 37)
- The barn is set into a hill (bank barn), known as a Central Ontario Barn set well away from the house, as is typical of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead
  - T-shape plan, gable roof barn (mows at right angles)
  - Vertical barnboard and shingled roof
  - Large sliding doors face the road are accessed by a grassed ramp, while the pedestrian door is on the west elevation
  - Appears to be board form concrete foundation with small window openings
- The landscape includes a cluster of buildings (farmhouse, barn, milkhouse and drive shed), farm fields, a tree stand, and tree wind breaks (Image 35-Image 41, Map 2)

- The cluster of buildings has a modest setback on the south side of Sherkston Road
- Observed alterations include:
  - Updated roof on house and barn
  - Some painted voussoirs
  - One storey rear addition
  - Appear to be newer windows
  - Parged foundation

### 5.1.3 Interior – Subject Property – 5187 Sherkston Road

The interior finishes of the residence appear to be relatively unchanged. Access was granted to the front room, kitchen and basement (Image 47–Image 54).

- The original 19<sup>th</sup> century interior layout of the farmhouse appears to remain intact
- The main floor consists of a family room leading to a small kitchenette to the east, and closed doorways leading south and west. (Image 47–Image 50).
- The family room contains beadboard vertical panelling, wood floors and a tile ceiling.
- Historic fabric within the first storey of the house includes the built-in shelves in the family room and kitchen as well as the wood flooring, door and door surrounds.
- The small kitchenette has a tiled floor with horizontal wood paneling on the walls
- The basement access door is located from the small kitchenette at the front of the house.
- The original wood floorboards remain in the family room.
- The basement is unfinished with concrete floor with access from the house via a staircase.
- Hand-hewn log beams and pillars support the foundations throughout the basement of the dwelling together with poured-in-place concrete walls.
- The basement houses the mechanical systems of the dwelling including remnants of the gas lines that once powered the house and lighting

## 5.2 History

### 5.2.1 Pre-Contact History

The Pre-Contact history of the region is lengthy and rich, and a variety of Indigenous groups inhabited the landscape. Archaeologists generally divide this vibrant history into three periods: Palaeo, Archaic, and Woodland. Each of these periods comprise a range of discrete sub-periods characterized by identifiable trends in material culture and settlement patters, which are used to interpret past lifeways. The principal characteristics of these sub-periods are summarized in Table 4.

**Table 4: Pre-Contact Settlement History**  
(Wright 1972; Ellis and Ferris 1990; Warrick 2000; Munson and Jamieson 2013)

| Sub-Period    | Timeframe    | Characteristics   |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| Early Palaeo  | 9000–8400 BC | Gainey, Barnes and Crowfield traditions; Small bands; Mobile hunters and gatherers; Utilization of seasonal resources and large territories; Fluted points                            |
| Late Palaeo   | 8400–7500 BC | Holcombe, Hi-Lo and Lanceolate biface traditions; Continuing mobility; Campsite/Way-Station sites; Smaller territories are utilized; Non-fluted points                                |
| Early Archaic | 7500–6000 BC | Side-Notched, Corner-Notched (Nettling, Thebes) and Bifurcate traditions; Growing diversity of stone tool types; Heavy woodworking tools appear (e.g., ground stone axes and chisels) |

| Sub-Period                      | Timeframe     | Characteristics   |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Middle Archaic                  | 6000–2500 BC  | Stemmed (Kirk, Stanly/Neville), Brewerton Side- and Corner-Notched traditions; Reliance on local resources; Populations increasing; More ritual activities; Fully ground and polished tools; Net-sinkers common; Earliest copper tools                                |
| Late Archaic                    | 2500–900 BC   | Narrow Point (Lamoka), Broad Point (Genesee) and Small Point (Crawford Knoll) traditions; Less mobility; Use of fish-weirs; True cemeteries appear; Stone pipes emerge; Long-distance trade (marine shells and galena)  |
| Early Woodland                  | 900–400 BC    | Meadowood tradition; Crude cord-roughened ceramics emerge; Meadowood cache blades and side-notched points; Bands of up to 35 people   |
| Middle Woodland                 | 400 BC–AD 600 | Local Saugeen-like tradition; Others argue for Point Peninsula tradition; Ceramics continue but many are undecorated; Seasonal settlements and resource utilization; Each watershed may have had a unique tradition; Regional patterns poorly understood at this time |
| Middle/Late Woodland Transition | AD 600–900    | Princess Point tradition; Cord roughening, impressed lines and punctate designs on pottery; Adoption of maize horticulture at the western end of Lake Ontario; Oval houses and 'incipient' longhouses; First palisades; Villages with 75 people                       |
| Late Woodland (Early)           | AD 900–1300   | Glen Meyer tradition; Settled village-life based on agriculture; Small villages (0.4 ha) with 75–200 people and 4–5 longhouses; Semi-permanent settlements  |
| Late Woodland (Middle)          | AD 1300–1400  | Uren and Middleport traditions; Classic longhouses emerge; Larger villages (1.2 ha) with up to 600 people; More permanent settlements (30 years)  |
| Late Woodland (Late)            | AD 1400–1600  | Pre-Contact Neutral tradition; Larger villages (1.7 ha); Examples up to 5 ha with 2,500 people; Extensive croplands; Also hamlets, cabins, camps and cemeteries; Potential tribal units; Fur trade begins ca. 1580; European trade goods appear                       |

Although Iroquoian-speaking populations tended to leave a much more obvious mark on the archaeological record and are therefore emphasized in the Late Woodland entries above, it must be understood that Algonquin-speaking populations also represented a significant presence in south Ontario. Due to the sustainability of their lifeways, archaeological evidence directly associated with the Anishinaabeg remains elusive, particularly when compared to sites associated with the more sedentary agriculturalists. Many artifact scatters in southern Ontario were likely campsites, chipping stations, or processing areas associated with the more mobile Anishinaabeg, utilized during their travels along the local drainage basins while making use of seasonal resources. It must be recognized that this part of south Ontario represents the ancestral territory of various Indigenous groups, each with their own land use and settlement pattern tendencies.

### 5.2.2 Post-Contact

The arrival of European explorers and traders at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century triggered widespread shifts in Indigenous lifeways and set the stage for the ensuing Euro-Canadian settlement process. Documentation for this period is abundant, ranging from the first sketches of Upper Canada and the written accounts of early explorers to detailed township maps and lengthy histories. The Post-Contact period can be effectively discussed in terms of major historical events, and the principal characteristics associated with these events are summarized in Table 5.

**Table 5: Post-Contact Settlement History**  
**(Smith 1846; WTPH 1887; Coyne 1895; Lajeunesse 1960; Ellis and Ferris 1990; Surtees 1994; Hammerburg 2008; AO 2015)**

| Historical Event               | Timeframe   | Characteristics  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Early Exploration              | Early 17 <sup>th</sup> century                          | Brûlé explores southern Ontario in 1610/11; Champlain travels through in 1613 and 1615/1616, making contact with a number of Indigenous groups (including the Algonquin, Huron-Wendat and other First Nations); European trade goods become increasingly common and begin to put pressure on traditional industries  |
| Increased Contact and Conflict | Mid- to late 17 <sup>th</sup> century                   | Conflicts between various First Nations during the Beaver Wars result in numerous population shifts; European explorers continue to document the area, and many Indigenous groups trade directly with the French and English; 'The Great Peace of Montreal' treaty established between roughly 39 different First Nations and New France in 1701   |
| Fur Trade Development          | Early to mid-18 <sup>th</sup> century                   | Growth and spread of the fur trade; Peace between the French and English with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713; Ethnogenesis of the Métis; Hostilities between French and British lead to the Seven Years' War in 1754; French surrender in 1760  |
| British Control                | Mid- to late 18 <sup>th</sup> century                   | <i>Royal Proclamation</i> of 1763 recognizes the title of the First Nations to the land; Numerous treaties subsequently arranged by the Crown; First land cession under the new protocols is the Seneca surrender of the west side of the Niagara River in 1764; The Niagara Purchase (Treaty 381) in 1781 included this area  |
| Loyalist Influx                | Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century                           | United Empire Loyalist influx during and after the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783); British develop interior communication routes and acquire additional lands; Between the Lakes Purchase completed with the Mississaugas in 1784 and confirmed in 1792 (Treaty 3); <i>Constitutional Act</i> of 1791 creates Upper and Lower Canada   |
| County Development             | Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century   | Became part of Lincoln County's 'Fourth Riding' in 1792; Became part of the Niagara District in 1798; Welland Canal was a major feature, conceived by W.H. Merritt and opened in 1829; Welland County formed from the southeastern part of Lincoln County in 1845; Independent after the abolition of the district system in 1849  |
| Township Formation             | Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to early 19 <sup>th</sup> century | Stockade and post established by the French near Fort Erie ca. 1750; Fort Erie established by the British near the shoreline in 1764; Township surveyed sporadically beginning in the 1780s; Township divided into Willoughby Township and Bertie Township in honour of the Fourth Earl of Abingdon First settled by United Empire Loyalists (mainly Butler's Rangers) in 1784; Ridgeway established as the seat of government for Bertie Township; 10 families obtained 200-acre free grants; Foundations of new Fort Erie laid ca. 1806; First township meeting occurred in 1807; The scene of many battles during the War of 1812; Most farmers abandoned their land to avoid the conflict, but many farms were restored by 1817; Bertie had a population of 1,600 and contained 200 houses, a Quaker church and six schools at that time |
| Township Development           | Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> to early 20 <sup>th</sup> century  | Population reached 2,318 by 1841; 13,484 ha taken up by 1846, with 5,058 ha under cultivation; Two grist mills and seven saw mills in operation at that time; Township incorporated in 1850; Traversed by the Buffalo, Brantford & Goderich/ Buffalo & Lake Huron Railway (1853), Erie & Ontario Railway (1864), the Great Western Railway's Canada Air Line (1873) and Canada Southern Railway (1873); Village of Fort Erie incorporated in 1857; Fenian Raids occurred in 1866; Principal community was Fort Erie, with smaller settlements at Ridgeway, Stevensville and Victoria, although the seat of government operated out of Bertie Township Hall (built 1874), which is now the Fort Erie Historical Museum  |

### 5.2.3 Ridgeway

The settlement of Ridgeway is not technically an incorporated municipality but has served as the seat of government for Bertie Township since 1784, although the first township meeting did not occur until March 7, 1807 (H.R. Page & Co 1876). The area, which also included Point Abino and Crystal Beach, was sparsely settled in the eighteenth century by United Empire Loyalist (UEL) farmers who were predominately from New York and of German and Swiss descent (WTPH 1887). The town was named after a limestone ridge which runs on a north-south axis through the settlement, which was part of a trail which ran through Bertie Township and connected Point Abino to Miller's Creek on the Niagara River (Scott 2010). According to a member of the community, the trail was later used as a wagon trail by early settlers, although Ridge Road no longer connects to Millers Creek and now ends at Bowen Road. In the 1850s, the Buffalo, Brantford, and Goderich Railway line was constructed through the village, and the increased access to transportation began to attract commercial enterprises outside of agriculture and as demonstrated in historic mapping, the settlement evolved around a commercial hub, especially after the construction of the railroad. The area was fertile for cultivation, and many dairy farms served the needs of the growing township (H.R. Page & Co. 1876, FEHM 2004).

The Tremaine's 1862 *Map of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland* depicted Ridgeway as a small village surrounded by a well-settled, albeit predominately rural, countryside (see Map 5). The Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway ran on an east-west axis and was bisected by Ridge Road, Ridgeway's main street. That intersection was the core of the settlement, with stores and a hotel indicated within the blocks of commercial development where Ridge Road crossed the rail corridor. There was also a cemetery and a Methodist church south of the village.

On the night of May 31 and into the morning of June 1, 1866, Irish American civil war veterans known as The Fenian Brotherhood, or Fenians, crossed the Niagara River as part of a scheme the was conceived to take Canada hostage and ransom the country back to the British in exchange for an Irish Free State. The force was led by former US Cavalry officer John O'Neill (Klein 2019). The Fenian force landed outside of old Fort Erie and one detachment was sent to destroy railroad tracks and a bridge at Port Colborne, while another contingent moved into Fort Erie itself in order to destroy telegraph lines. The invading force arrested the town officials and were offered repast in the village but declined the offer of liquor. They did, however, take food and supplies, offering Fenian bonds in the place of currency (Grodzinski & Vronsky 2014, Klein 2019). The Fenians camped in an apple orchard outside of Fort Erie for most of June 1.

British forces, consisting of The Queen's Own Rifles and the Thirteenth Infantry Division along with volunteer units headed by Alfred Booker, congregated in the area by rail in anticipation of repelling the Fenians back across the Niagara River. On June 2, 1866, the Fenians had taken position along the lime ridge approximately five kilometres (three miles) north of Ridgeway and had a clear view of the much larger British forces (Klein 2019). Despite its greater size, the British forces were routed and the Fenians decided to return to Fort Erie to celebrate their victory. However, the British had reoccupied the fort and another skirmish broke out, resulting in another Fenian victory (Klein 2019).

When it became clear that Fenian reinforcements were not arriving and the British ranks were being augmented, Fenian commander O'Neill decided to retreat to the United States and released all Canadian prisoners. On the American side of the river, the Fenians were captured by US military forces and the village of Fort Erie was reclaimed by the British (Klein 2019). This was not the end of the Fenian threat for Canada, as invasions were attempted in Quebec in 1866 and 1870, with a final attempt occurring in Manitoba in 1871 (Grodzinski & Vronsky 2014). The Fenian



Raids resulted in a growing call for Canadian Confederation to protect the country against the military might of the United States, which was realized on July 1, 1867 (Grodzinski & Vronsky 2014).

Ridgeway acquired a post office in 1873 when it was moved from Point Abino closer to the commercial core of the township. In 1876, the settlement had a population of 800, with three hotels and approximately 20 stores and shops, along with a railway station for the Buffalo and Goderich spur of the GTR (Grand Trunk Railway, H.R. Page & Co. 1876; FEHM 2004). The 1876 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland* depicted Ridgeway as much larger than it was in 1862; the settlement had expanded beyond the intersection of Ridge Road and the rail corridor and commercial blocks encompassed several blocks north and south of the initial commercial core (see Map 6). The countryside around Ridgeway is well-settled, with numerous farmhouses and orchards along a surveyed grid of concession roads.

By 1887, the population had decreased to around 600 people, although it still seemed to be a thriving settlement. According to a community member, Ridgeway acted as a township seat with no fixed borders, the population ebbed and flowed over time, which might account for the discrepancy in population. The businesses within Ridgeway consisted of two hotels, three general stores, three grocery stores, three taverns, two stationary stores, one pharmacy, a jewelry store, a tin shop, a milliner, a “gentleman’s furnishing store,” a bakery, multiple blacksmiths and harness shops, several shoe stores, a gristmill, two sawmills, one planing mill, a foundry, and other unnamed businesses. It was connected to the Great Northwestern Telegraph system, which also provided a post office and a money order department affiliated with the telegraph office. The village also hosted a public school and three church congregations: the Methodists, the Free Methodists, and the Presbyterians (WTPH 1887; FEHM 2004).

The 1907 topographic map of Welland County indicates that while the area around Ridgeway was still predominantly rural, Ridgeway itself and the village of Crystal Beach along the shore of Lake Erie were growing communities (see Map 7). Ridgeway encompassed a commercial core of several blocks, although individual stores are not noted. A train station was located in the centre of the settlement as part of the GTR, and the village also possessed a school, a sawmill, and a telegraph line. Nearby train stations were located at Point Abino Station and Sherkston, both located west of Ridgeway.

By 1954, the communities of Ridgeway and Crystal Beach had grown together, and the area immediately surrounding both settlements was no longer rural in character. However, the west side of Bertie Township was still predominately agricultural, with concession blocks divided into a series of agricultural fields, interspersed with woodlot (see Map 8). Ridgeway is now a part of the Town of Fort Erie, which amalgamated in 1970.

#### **5.2.4 Site Specific History**

**The farmhouse at 5187 Sherkston Road was built circa 1889 by Martin B. Sherk.** Below is a history of the property from 1797 until the present day.

- The Crown Patent for 200 acres of Lots 34 and 35, Concession 1 Lake Erie, was granted to Azaliah Schooley on February 10, 1797 (see Table 6, LRO 59).
- In February 1803, Azaliah Schooley sold all 200 acres on both lots to Michael Sherk for £56.
- On September 9, 1806, Michael Sherk sold all 200 acres to his son Samuel Sherk for \$495.

- Samuel Sherk was born on December 4, 1777, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania the son of Michael Sherk and Barbara Weber. Michael Sherk and his family moved to Ontario around 1790, settling west of Point Abino Road. The area where the family settled became known at first as Sherk's Corners and then Sherkston, although the settlement never grew larger than a rural hamlet (Family Search 2023f).
  - Samuel married Anna Stoner (1778 – 1851) on November 17, 1801, in Lincoln, Ontario. The couple had at least five children: Peter, Eva, Jonas, Elizabeth, and Anna.
  - Samuel Sherk died on March 2, 1836, in Bertie Township, Welland, Ontario.
- Samuel Sherk's will was drafted on April 24, 1832, but was not filed until 1847. It left the 200 acres of Lots 34 and 35 to his son, Jonas Sherk.
  - Jonas Sherk was born on November 21, 1806, in Bertie Township, the third child of Samuel Sherk and Anna Stoner (Family Search 2023d).
  - Jonas married Katherine Kilmer (1808 – 1859) on November 21, 1833. It does not appear that the couple had living descendants.
  - The 1851 Canada West census recorded Jonas Sherk as a 47-year-old Ontario born Mennonite farmer that lived with his wife Catharine (age 54) in a one-storey log house (LAC 1851).
  - Jonas Sherk died on February 5, 1859 and is buried in the Sherkston Mennonite Cemetery. Jonas Sherk's will was drafted on January 1, 1859. The 200 acres in Concession 1, Lake Erie, was left to his heirs.
- An 1862 historic atlas indicates the subject property encompassed all of Lot 34 in Concession 1, which, along with the adjacent Lot 35, belonged to Jonas Sherk (see Map 5). The lot is located south of the rail corridor along a grid of concession roads, and a historic roadway (currently known as Sherkston Road) bisects the property. A structure is noted on the south side of the thoroughfare although the style of construction or purpose of the building was not indicated. There are no associated outbuildings or orchards although that does not necessarily mean they were not present. Other structures are located nearby on Lot 32 (H.C. Dickout), Lot 33 (H.C. Dickout and D. Sherk), and Lot 35 (Jonas Sherk).
- On June 16, 1864, the executors of Jonas Sherk sold Lot 34, which comprised 100 acres, to Christian Sherk for \$400.
  - Christian Sherk was born on April 13, 1827, in Bertie Township. He was the son of Benjamin Sherk and Esther Hershey; Benjamin Sherk was Samuel Sherk's brother and uncle to Jonas Sherk. Therefore, Christian and Jonas Sherk were first cousins (Family Search 2023b).
  - Christian Sherk married Susannah Baker (1836 – 1927) around 1852, in Bertie. The couple had at least five children: Jessie Ellen, Martin Benjamin, Addie Rebecca, Sarah H., and John Malcolm.
  - The 1871 and 1881 Canada Censuses list Christian Sherk as a Mennonite farmer who was aged 44 in 1871 and 53 in 1881 (LAC 1871, LAC 1881).
  - Christian Sherk died on December 31, 1887, in Welland County.
- A historical atlas from 1876 indicates that the subject property continued to comprise the 200 acres of Lot 34 in Concession 1, the entirety of which is attributed to Christian Sherk (see Map 6). The configuration of the rail corridor and the historic thoroughfares had not changed significantly since 1862, and both the subject property and surrounding area are rural in character. A structure is indicated in the same location as in the 1862 atlas, although an orchard had been planted at some point within the 14-year interval. There do not appear to be outbuildings on either side of what is now Sherkston Road. There are

- neighbouring structures on Lot 32 (Henry Dickout), Lot 33 (W.M. Sloan), and Lot 35 (Jonas Beam and Cyrenus Ott), and a church and cemetery to the west of the subject property.
- Two quit claims were filed regarding Lot 34: the first was in December 1888 when Jessie Beck (or Beam) filed in favour of Martin B. Sherk; the second was in August 1895 when the executors and heirs of the now-deceased Christian Sherk renounced their claim to Lot 34 also in favour of Martin B. Sherk.
    - Martin Benjamin Sherk was the son of Christian Sherk and Esther Hershey. He was born in 1863 in Bertie Township (Family Search 2023e).
    - He married Esther Elizabeth Pound (1869 – 1958) on September 18, 1889, in Humberstone Township, Welland County. The couple had at least eight children: Harold Christian, Florence Esther, Wilfred Samuel, Mildred Susannah, Corinne, Watson Martin, Edwin Laurence, and Eva Laurine.
    - The 1891 Canada Census listed Martin Sherk as a 27-year-old Mennonite farmer who lived in a two storey, ten room brick house with his wife Esther (age 21) and their infant son Harold C. The family also employed a live-in farm labourer, 22-year-old Nathan Day (LAC 1891).
    - The brick house listed in the census is likely the house located on the subject property, meaning it was extant by 1891. According to the current homeowner (Martin Sherk's descendent) the house was built in September 1889 (Personal Communication 2023). **Based on the information outlined above, it appears that the farmhouse was built circa 1889.** This construction date also appears to be supported in the deed abstracts, as in 1888 Martin's sister Jessie E. (Sherk) Buck filed a quit claim deed in favour of her brother Martin for a monetary consideration of \$1,000.
      - Considering historic mapping and other historical data, such as census records, it appears there was an earlier house located on the property. The 1851 census notes a one-storey log structure as the home of Jonas Sherk, and the 1862 and 1876 historic atlases indicate a structure in the same general location as the extant brick farmhouse.
    - Martin Sherk also appeared in the 1901, 1911, and 1921 censuses. He continued to work as a farmer as his family grew, and in 1921 is still living in a brick residence on Lot 34, Concession 1 (LAC 1921).
    - Martin died on September 10, 1941.
  - A 1907 topographic map indicates the subject property was located south of the Grand Trunk Railway between the Sherkston Station and Point Abino Station (Map 7). The roads followed a similar configuration to the 1862 and 1876 historic atlases, and a brick or stone building was on the south side of the road bisecting the subject property. No outbuildings are indicated, although the property is in close proximity to both wood and brick/stone buildings, a church, and cemetery.
  - On October 6, 1944, Lot 34 was granted to Martin's widow, Esther E. Sherk by his executors.
  - A 1954 aerial photograph indicates the subject property was divided into a series of agricultural fields, as were the surrounding properties (see Map 8). The rail corridor ran to the north of the property, and the road alignments of the historic thoroughfares appear to have changed little since 1862. Although resolution is poor it appears there is a complex of buildings located within the boundaries of the subject property on the south side of Sherkston Road. The type and style of the buildings cannot be determined.
  - On February 3, 1959, the executors of Esther Sherk transferred Lot 34 to Evan John Sahs and Eva L. Sahs.
    - Esther (Pound) Sherk died on September 22, 1958 (Family Search 2023a)

- Eva Laurine Sherk was born on November 1, 1911, the youngest child of Martin and Esther Sherk (Family Search 2023b).
- She married Evan John Sahs (1909 – 1985) and the couple had at least one child named Eva-Lyn Sahs.
- Eva-Lyn (Sherk) Sahs died on April 3, 2008.
- On August 8, 2008, Evan J. Sahs and the estate of Eva L. Sahs filed a land transmission deed to the current owners. According to land records, these individuals are the current owners of the subject property. A modern aerial photograph indicates the subject property consists of a series of agricultural fields and woodlot on either side of Sherkston Road (see Map 2). The historic railway corridor has been replaced by a trail, but the alignments of the roads follow their established trajectories as demonstrated by other historic maps and atlases and the surrounding area appears to maintain its rural character. There are a series of structures on the south side of Sherkston Road which consist of a farmhouse and several outbuildings.
- Two undated historical photographs of 5187 Sherkston Road, see Figure 6 and Figure 7.

**Table 6: Summary of Property Ownership at 5187 Sherkston Road  
(LRO #59)**





| Instrument # | Instrument              | Date                       | Grantor   | Grantee                             | Comments                       |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| --           | Patent                  | 10 Feb 1797                | The Crown   | Azaliah Schooley                    | 200 acres Lots 34 & 35         |
| 473          | B&S                     | 4 Feb 1803                 | Azaliah Schooley  | Michael Sherk                       | 200 acres Lots 34 & 35, £56    |
| 7305         | B&S                     | 9 Sep 1806                 | Michael Sherk   | Samuel Sherk                        | 200 acres, Lots 34 & 35, \$495 |
| 3268         | Will                    | 24 Apr 1832<br>(reg. 1847) | Samuel Sherk  | Jonas Sherk                         | 200 acres                      |
| 7132         | Will                    | 1 Jan 1859                 | Jonas Sherk   | To Heirs                            | 200 acres                      |
| 12485        | B&S                     | 16 Jun 1864                | Exrs of Jonas Sherk   | Christian Sherk                     | 100 acres, \$400               |
| 5927         | Quit Claim              | 13 Dec 1888                | Jessie E. Buck  | Martin B. Sherk                     | 100 acres Lot 34               |
| 9493         | Quit Claim              | 19 Aug 1895                | Exrs of late<br>Christian Sherk   | Martin B. Sherk                     | 100 acres Lot 34               |
| 40013        | Grant                   | 6 Oct 1944                 | Harold Sherk,<br>Wilfred Sherk,<br>Mildred Mitchener,<br>Florence Tait,<br>Corinne Sahs, Evan<br>Sahs, Esther Sherk | Esther E. Sherk,<br>widow           | Lot 34 as in 9493              |
| AA19805      | Transfer                | 3 Feb 1959                 | Donald Tait &<br>Wilfred Sherk, exrs<br>of Esther E. Sherk  | Evan John Sahs,<br>Eva L. Sahs      | Lot 34                         |
| RO106181     | Bylaw                   | 31 Jul 1969                | Dept. of Municipal Affairs  |                                     | Subdivision<br>Control         |
| SN217592     | Land<br>Transmission    | 8 Aug 2008                 | Estate of Eva L.<br>Sahs, Evan John<br>Sahs   | Eva-Lyn<br>Sahs-<br>Meyer           |                                |
| SN217593     | Transfer –<br>Pers. Rep | 8 Aug 2008                 | Eva-Lyn Sahs-<br>Meyer  | Eva-Lyn Sahs-<br>Meyer, Peter Meyer |                                |

### 5.3 Context

- Located at 5187 Sherkston Road in rural outskirts of the historic settlement of Ridgeway
  - The subject property is a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, surrounded by other similar 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads

- Sherkston Road is a two-lane rural road with a narrow gravel shoulder and lined with matures trees and natural vegetation. There are no sidewalks or street lights and the road is generally flat and straight.
- The building is situated in the approximate middle of the 100-acre lot on the south side of Sherkston Road which bisects the lot
- The subject property was settled in 1803 by the Sherk's, a Mennonite family, The area was known as Sherk's Corner, now Sherkston, on Sherkston Road
- Subject property is in proximity to Sherk's Corner, and is directly adjacent to another Sherk family-founded farm located at 5069 Sherkston Road
- The adjacent property at 5069 Sherkston Road is a farmstead with a similar set up and layout to the subject property. It also contains a similar remnant stone gatepost. 5069 Sherkston Road was also settle by members of the Sherk family
- Modest setback from the road. No evidence of paved or gravel driveways or pathways
- The character of the area can be described as follows:
  - Comprised of predominantly Ontario Farmsteads with one to two-and-a-half storey farm houses, barns, various outbuildings and fields under agricultural use
  - Residential buildings are Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Bungalow and vernacular, and generally date to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Table 7 for nearby examples)
  - Modest setbacks along the road
  - Many of the properties have a division between the ROW and the building cluster in the form of fencing with gate posts of various materials
    - Fencing/walls observed includes split rail fence and stone walls (see Table 8) for some observed stone wall and gateposts in the vicinity

**Table 7: Selection of other 19<sup>th</sup> Century Farmsteads in the Vicinity**

| Address                | Brief Description   | Est. Year Constructed    | Photo if Available   |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| 5069 Road<br>Sherkston | Farmstead with Italianate influences, two storey redbrick house, gambrel roof, t-shaped plan barn and various outbuildings, same stone hitching post as 5187 Sherkston Road | 1870s                    |    |
| 5145 Michener Road     | Farmstead close to road with one-and-a-half storey Gothic Revival house and barn  | 19 <sup>th</sup> century |    |
| 5297 Road<br>Sherkston | Farmstead with gable roof house (obscured), barn, outbuilding set close to the road   | 19 <sup>th</sup> century |   |
| 5286 Road<br>Sherkston | Farmstead with frame Gothic Revival house, barn and outbuildings, set close to the road   | 19 <sup>th</sup> century |  |

**Table 8: Selection of Stone Walls and Gateposts in the vicinity**

| Address                                    | Photo if Available   |
|--|--|
| Subject Property-<br>5187 Sherkston Road   |    |
| 5069 Sherkston Road                        |    |
| 164 Point Abino Road                       |   |
| Point Abino Road Area<br>(Address Unknown) |  |
| Point Abino Road Area<br>(Address Unknown) |  |

## 6.0 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Table 9: Evaluation of the Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of 5187 Sherkston Road in Accordance with O. Reg. 9/06**

| Description   | Meets Criteria (Yes/No) | Value  |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| <p>The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method</p>                             | <p>Yes</p>              | <p>5187 Sherkston Road is a representative example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead. The property contains several structures which could individually be considered to possess design and physical value; however, this significance is strengthened by the grouping of these buildings within the property. The property has a centralized 'farmstead' composed of a clustered grouping of buildings including a farmhouse, Central Ontario Barn, drive shed and milkhouse. The subject property also contains mature trees that separate the structures and act as windbreaks. The farmstead is modestly set back from the roadway with the farmhouse placed nearest to the road.</p> <p>5187 Sherkston Road contains a representative example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse. The two-storey red brick farmhouse retains much of the original historic fabric. The overall massing, roof line, fenestration, windows, and large gable end with dichromatic brickwork are reflective of a Gothic Revival farmhouse architectural style. Gothic Revival dwellings are commonly found throughout Ontario especially on rural farmsteads.</p> <p>The barn is a representative example of a Central Ontario Barn (also known as a "bank barn"). The large two storey wooden structure is built on stone foundation set into a slope, with a gable roof, large side doors, and wood frame construction all representative features of this barn typology.</p> |
| <p>The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic value</p>   | <p>No</p>               | <p>The buildings on the property at 5187 Sherkston Road do not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic value. They were built using common materials and technique for its construction period.</p> <p>The joinery found in the timber-framed barn is typical of the period with no outstanding or unusual details or ornamentation. The dichromatic brickwork of the house is present; however, it is a common feature of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings.</p>   |
| <p>The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of technical or scientific achievement</p>   | <p>No</p>               | <p>5187 Sherkston Road does not display a high degree of technical or scientific achievement. There is evidence to suggest that it was built by local tradespeople and family members.</p>   |
| <p>The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community</p> | <p>Yes</p>              | <p>5187 Sherkston Road has historical and associative value due to its long standing and significant association with members of the Sherk family. Patriarch Michael Sherk, a Mennonite from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, moved his family to Ontario around 1790, and purchased the subject property in 1803 along with other lands. Numerous Sherk descendants settled in the Ridgeway area and the Sherks became synonymous with the area. Not only is the subject property location on Sherkston Road which extends multiple concessions, the intersection of what is now Holloway Bay</p>   |



| Description   | Meets Criteria (Yes/No) | Value   |
|---|-------------------------|---|
|   |                         | Road and Sherkston Road was known as Sherk's Corners or Sherkston, after the Sherk family. The subject property has remained in the Sherk family for over 200 years, as descendants of Michael Sherk's continue to be associated with the property and still utilizes the land for agricultural purposes.   |
| The property has historical value or associative value because it yields or has the potential to yield information that contributes to the understanding of a community or culture                    | No                      | 5187 Sherkston Road does not have the potential to yield information that contributes to the understanding of its community. There is no evidence that this property would offer new knowledge or a greater understanding of particular aspects of the community's history.   |
| The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, builder, artist, designer or theorist who is significant to a community | No                      | 5187 Sherkston Road does not reflect the ideas of an architect, builder, designer, or theorist. Research indicates that the design of the residence did not generate key ideas in the field of architecture.  |
| The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area  | Yes                     | 5187 Sherkston Road supports and maintains the agricultural and rural character of this portion of Sherkston Road. There are several farms in the surrounding area including the adjacent properties. With a cluster of 19 <sup>th</sup> century farmstead buildings set close to the road, the residence, a barn and associated agricultural fields, the property continues to reflect the bucolic rural nature and character of the surrounding area.   |
| The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings  | No                      | A significant relationship between the property and the immediate surroundings was not demonstrated in the research conducted. Although the property has been used for agriculture since the mid- 19 <sup>th</sup> century and is located within a largely agricultural area, there is no strong physical, functional, visual or historical link that ties this particular property to its surroundings. The farmhouse and layout are typical and could be found anywhere within Ontario's countryside. |
| The property has contextual value because it is a landmark  | No                      | 5187 Sherkston Road is not a landmark within the settlement of Ridgeway, or greater Fort Erie area as it is in keeping with typical 19 <sup>th</sup> century farmstead.   |

5187 Sherkston Road meets at least two of the criteria outlined in O. Reg. 9/06; and therefore, contains CHVI.

## 7.0 HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

An examination of the relationship between the heritage attributes and the cultural heritage value or interest outlined in Table 10 assisted with the development of the list of heritage attributes.

**Table 10: Relationship of Heritage Attributes to Cultural Heritage Values**

| Cultural Heritage Value or Interest   | Heritage Attribute   |
|---|--|
| 5187 Sherkston Road is a representative example of a 19 <sup>th</sup> century farmstead and includes a representative example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse and a Central Ontario barn. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed</li> <li>Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step</li> </ul> |

| Cultural Heritage Value or Interest  | Heritage Attribute   |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engraved gatepost cap which reads "M.B. Sherk 1916"</li> <li>● Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L-shaped plan;</li> <li>○ Cross gable roof;</li> <li>○ Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window</li> <li>○ All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills</li> <li>○ Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;</li> <li>○ Stone foundation</li> <li>○ Covered porch with stone foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inscribed ordinance stone</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Large bank barn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ T-shaped plan;</li> <li>○ Vertical barn board</li> <li>○ Gable roof</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <p>5187 Sherkston Road has historical value due to its association with the Sherk family, one of the pioneer families in Bertie Township.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed</li> <li>● Location on Sherkston Road, near Sherk's Corners, now Sherkston</li> <li>● Inscribed ordinance stone on porch foundation and engraved gatepost cap which reads "M.B. Sherk 1916"</li> </ul>   |
| <p>5187 Sherkston Road has contextual value because it supports and maintains the agricultural character of this portion of Sherkston Road</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed</li> <li>● Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engraved gatepost cap which reads "M.B. Sherk 1916"</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L-shaped plan;</li> <li>○ Cross gable roof;</li> <li>○ Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window</li> <li>○ All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills</li> <li>○ Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;</li> <li>○ Stone foundation</li> <li>○ Covered porch with stone foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inscribed ordinance stone</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Large Central Ontario Barn (bank barn): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ T-shaped plan</li> <li>○ Vertical barn board</li> <li>○ Gable roof</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

## 8.0 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Based on the evaluation of the property against O. Reg. 9/06 it was determined that 5187 Sherkston Road has CHVI. As such, a Statement of CHVI has been drafted below.

### *Introduction and Description of Property*

The property at 5187 Sherkston Road is located on the south side of Sherkston Road, which bisects the subject property boundary. The two-storey red brick farmhouse appears to be built circa 1889. A large T-shaped bank barn is located southwest of the farmhouse. The property is representative of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead and can be considered an evolved cultural heritage landscape.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value/Statement of Significance:

**5187 Sherkston Road has design value as a representative example of a 19th century farmstead.** The property contains several structures which could individually be considered to possess design and physical value; however, this significance is strengthened by the grouping of these buildings within the property. The property has a centralized 'farmstead' composed of a clustered grouping of buildings including a farmhouse, Central Ontario Barn, drive shed and milkhouse. The subject property also contains mature trees that separate the structures and act as windbreaks. The farmstead is modestly set back from the roadway with the farmhouse placed nearest to the road.

**5187 Sherkston Road contains a representative example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse.** The two-storey red brick farmhouse retains much of the original historic fabric. The overall massing, roof line, fenestration, windows, and large gable end with dichromatic brickwork are reflective of a Gothic Revival farmhouse architectural style. Gothic Revival dwellings are commonly found throughout Ontario especially on rural farmsteads.

**5187 Sherkston Road contains a representative example of a Central Ontario Barn (also known as a "bank barn").** The large two storey wooden structure is built on stone foundation set into a slope, with a gable roof, large side doors, and wood frame construction all representative features of this barn typology.

**5187 Sherkston Road has historical and associative value due to its long standing and significant association with members of the Sherk family.** Patriarch Michael Sherk, a Mennonite from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, moved his family to Ontario around 1790, and purchased the subject property in 1803 along with other lands. Numerous Sherk descendants settled in the Ridgeway area and the Sherks became synonymous with the area. Not only is the subject property location on Sherkston Road which extends multiple concessions, the intersection of what is now Holloway Bay Road and Sherkston Road was known as Sherk's Corners or Sherkston, after the Sherk family. The subject property has remained in the Sherk family for over 200 years, as descendants of Michael Sherk's continue to be associated with the property and still utilizes the land for agricultural purposes.

**5187 Sherkston Road has contextual value as it supports and maintains the agricultural and rural character of this portion of Sherkston Road.** There are several farms in the surrounding area including the adjacent properties. With a cluster of 19th century farmstead buildings set close to the road, the residence, a barn and associated agricultural fields, the property continues to reflect the bucolic rural nature and character of the surrounding area.

#### *Cultural Heritage Attributes*

5187 Sherkston Road is a representative example of a 19th century farmstead and includes a representative example of the Gothic Revival farmhouse and a Central Ontario barn. **The property contains the following heritage attributes related to this value:**

- 19th century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed

- Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step
- Engraved gatepost cap which reads “M.B. Sherk 1916”
- Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse:
  - L-shaped plan;
  - Cross gable roof;
  - Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window
  - All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills
  - Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;
  - Stone foundation
  - Covered porch with stone foundation
  - Inscribed ordinance stone
- Large bank barn:
  - T-shaped plan;
  - Vertical barn board
  - Gable roof

5187 Sherkston Road has historical and associative value due to its long standing and significant association with members of the Sherk family. **The property contains the following heritage attributes related to this value:**

- 19th century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed
- Location on Sherkston Road, near Sherk’s Corners, now Sherkston
- Inscribed ordinance stone on porch foundation and engraved gatepost cap which reads “M.B. Sherk 1916”

5187 Sherkston Road has contextual value because it supports and maintains the agricultural character of this portion of Sherkston Road. **The property contains the following heritage attributes related to this value:**

- 19th century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed
  - Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step
  - Engraved gatepost cap which reads “M.B. Sherk 1916”
- Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse:
  - L-shaped plan;
  - Cross gable roof;
  - Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window
  - All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills
  - Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;
  - Stone foundation
  - Covered porch with stone foundation
  - Inscribed ordinance stone
- Large bank barn:
  - T-shaped plan;
  - Vertical barn board
  - Gable roof

## **9.0 MAP OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

The following figures display the heritage attributes as outlined above in Section 7.0.



Map 3: Map of Heritage Attributes of 5187 Sherkston Road

## 10.0 CONCLUSIONS

*O. Reg. 9/06* of the *OHA* requires that to be designated, a property must meet at least two of the criteria. 5187 Sherkston Road meets three of the criteria for determining CHVI as outlined in *O. Reg. 9/06*, therefore it is worthy of designation under *O. Reg. 9/06* of the *OHA*.

The *Provincial Policy Statement* notes that CHVI is bestowed upon cultural heritage resources by communities (MMAH 2020). Accordingly, the system by which heritage is governed in this province places an emphasis on the decision-making of local municipalities in determining CHVI. It is hoped that the information presented in this report will be useful in those deliberations.

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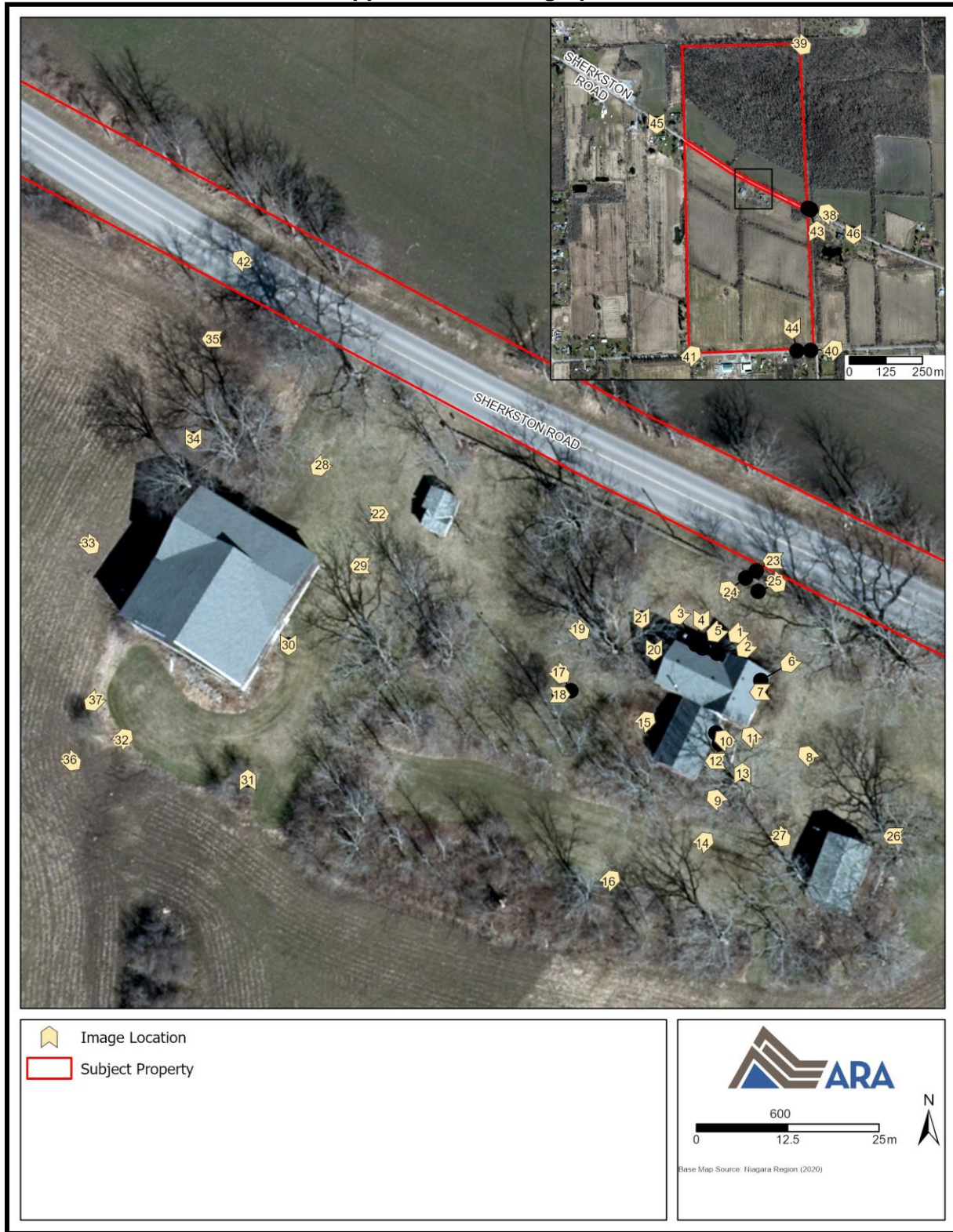
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### Appendix A: Photographs



**Map 4: Image Locations of Subject Property on a Current Aerial**  
(Produced by ARA under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)



**Image 1: Façade of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 2: Detail Ordnance Stone in Front Porch Wall  
(Photo taken July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 3: Detail of Window Openings on Façade of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 4: Entryway Detail of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 5: Detail of One-Storey Bay Window of 5187 Sherston Road  
(Photo taken July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 6: Detail of Buff Brick Round Feature in Façade Gable End of 5187 Sherston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 7: East Corner of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing West)**



**Image 8: Southeast Elevation of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)**





**Image 9: Addition - Southeast Elevation of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)**



**Image 10: Detail of Window with Buff Brick Voussoirs and Dressed Stone Sill of 5187  
Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)**



**Image 11: Detail of Basement Window and Foundation of 5187 Sherkeston Road**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)



**Image 12: Detail of Foundation at South Corner of 5187 Sherkeston Road**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing West)



**Image 13: South Corner of 5187 Sherston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing North)**



**Image 14: Main House - Southwest Elevation of 5187 Sherston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northeast)**



**Image 15: Main House - Southwest Elevation of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northeast)**



**Image 16: Addition - Southwest Elevation of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northeast)**



**Image 17: Addition - Northwest Elevation of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northeast)**



**Image 18: West Corner of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing East)**



**Image 19: Main House - Northwest Elevation of 5187 Sherston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southeast)**



**Image 20: Detail of Buff Brick Round Feature in Northwest Elevation Gable End of 5187  
Sherston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southeast)**



**Image 21: North Corner of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing South)**



**Image 22: Outbuilding – Milk House  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing South)**



**Image 23: Landscape Feature – Stone Wall, Buggy Step and Hitching Posts**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)



**Image 24: Landscape Feature – Gatepost with Inscription “M.B. Sherk 1916”**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)





**Image 25: Landscape Feature – Gatepost with Baby Footprints of MB Sherk’s daughter**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southeast)



**Image 26: Outbuilding – Drive Shed**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing West)



**Image 27: Outbuilding – Drive Shed**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southeast)



**Image 28: Outbuilding – Barn Northwest Elevation**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)



**Image 29: Outbuilding – Barn**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)



**Image 30: Outbuilding – Barn Door**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)



**Image 31: Outbuilding – Barn**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing North)



**Image 32: Outbuilding – Barn Rear (Southwest) Elevation**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northeast)



**Image 33: Outbuilding – Barn Northwest Elevation**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southeast)



**Image 34: Outbuilding – Barn**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing South)



**Image 35: Landscape – Field Under Agriculture, South of Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 36: Landscape – Field Under Agriculture, South of Barn and House  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing South)**



**Image 37: Landscape – Detail – Lime Kiln Remnants, South of Barn/House  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing South)**



**Image 38: Landscape – Field Under Agriculture, North of Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Northwest)**



**Image 39: Landscape – Treeline**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)



**Image 40: Landscape – Field Under Agriculture from Mathews and Michener Road**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)





**Image 41: Landscape – View of Barn Field Under Agriculture from Michener Road**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing North)



**Image 42: Context – Sherkston Road**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)



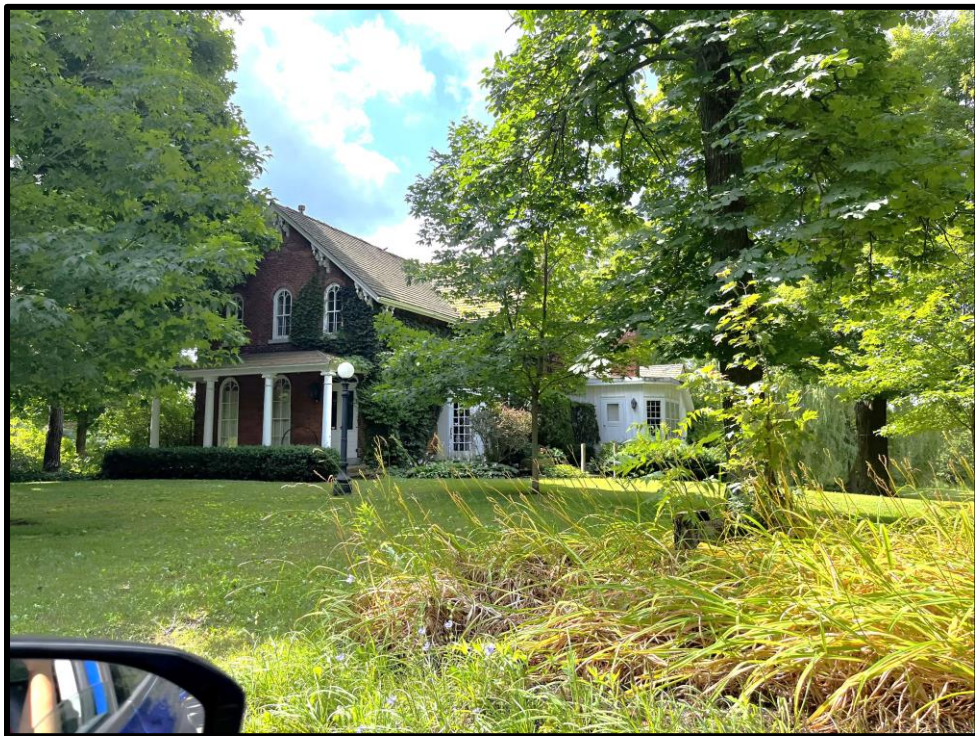
**Image 43: Context – Looking North on Matthews Road North  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing North)**



**Image 44: Context – 5145 Michener Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing South)**



**Image 45: Context – 5297 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing Southwest)**



**Image 46: Adjacent Heritage Property – 5069 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023; Facing South)**



**Image 47: Interior – First Floor Family Room – Detail of Built-in Wood Cabinetry  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)**



**Image 48: Interior – First Floor Family Room – Detail of Built-in Wood Cabinetry  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)**



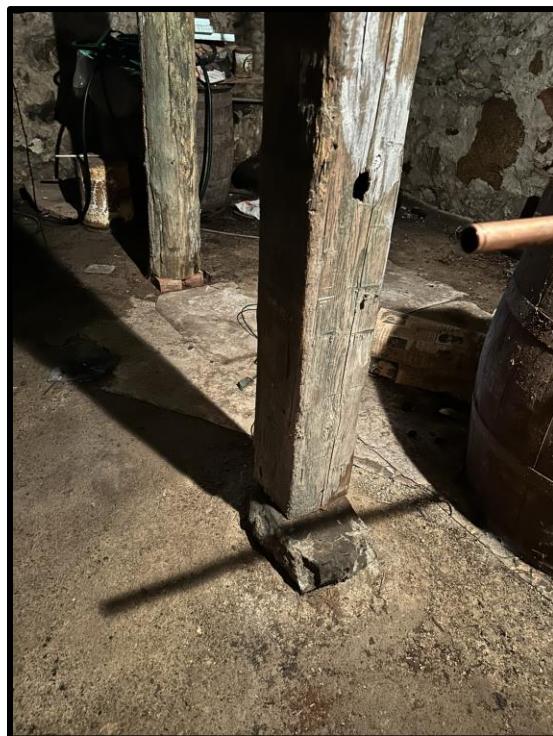
**Image 49: Interior – First Floor Family Room – Detail of Interior Door and Wood Surround**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)



**Image 50: Interior – First Floor Kitchen – Detail of Built-in Wood Cabinetry and Wall Panelling**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)



**Image 51: Interior Detail of Hand-hewn Log Beams – 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)**



**Image 52: Interior – Basement - Detail of Hand-hewn Log Beams – 5187 Sherkston Road  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)**

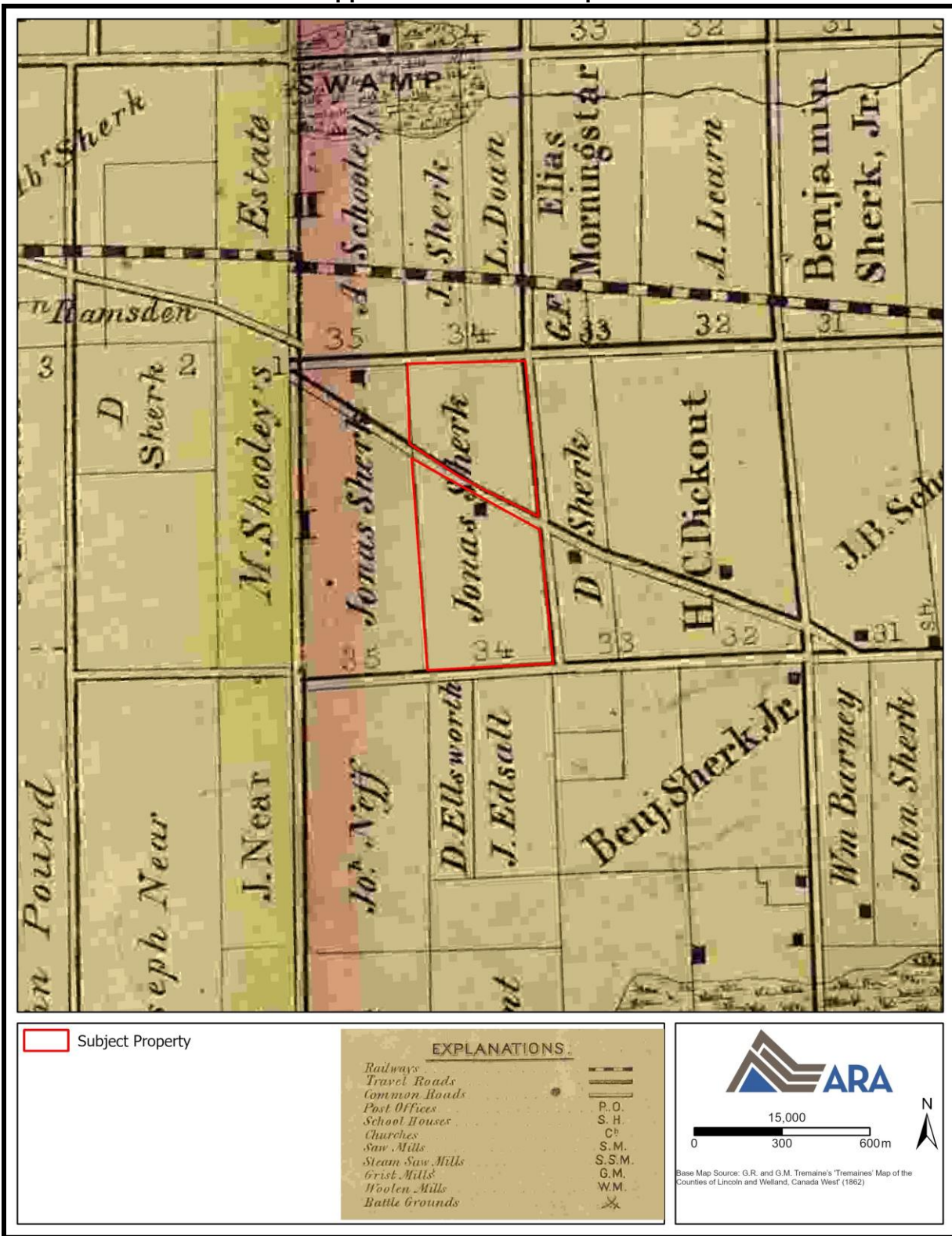


**Image 53: Interior – Basement - Detail of Poured Stone Foundation Walls – 5187 Sherkston Road**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)



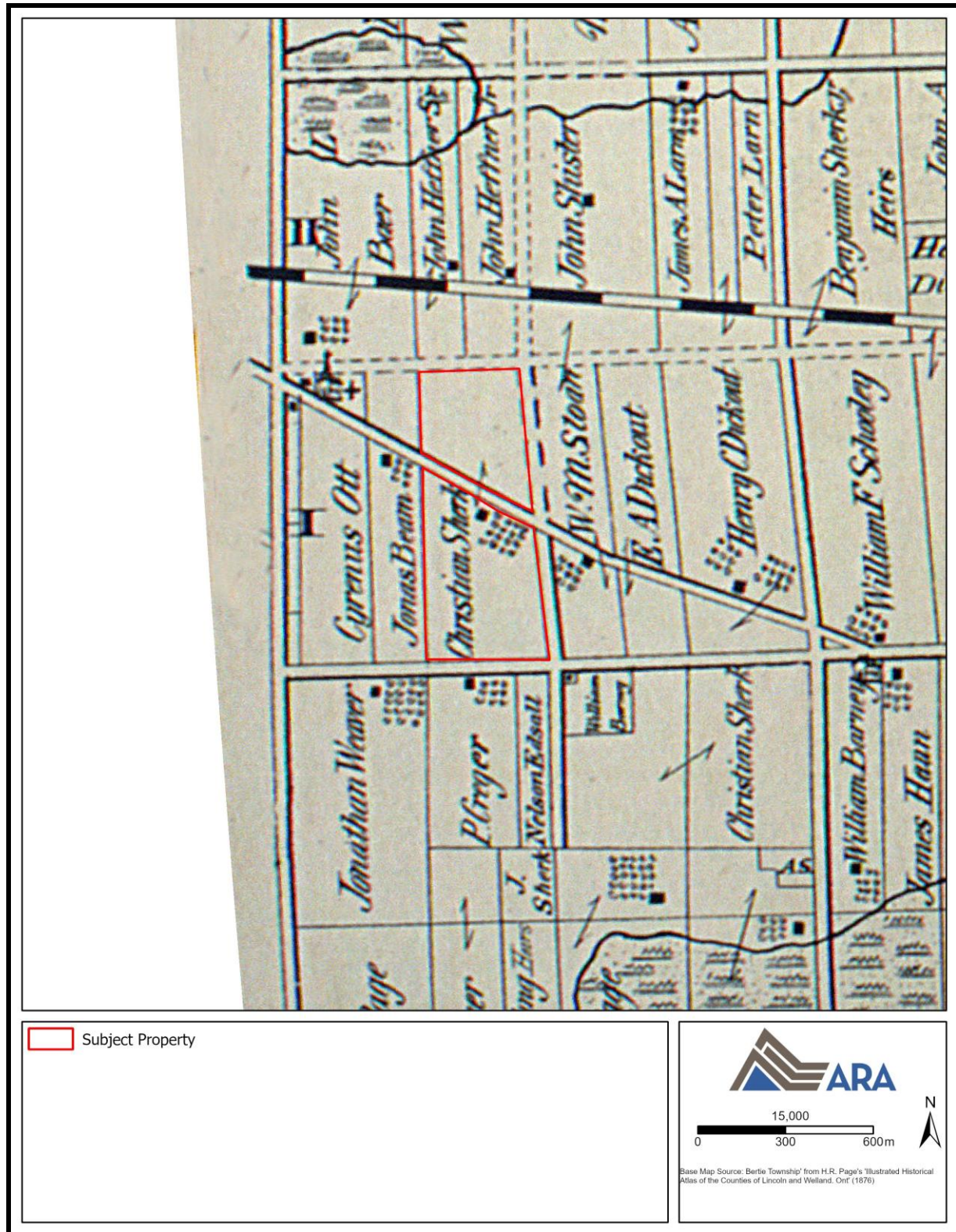
**Image 54: Interior – Basement - Detail of Poured in Place Concrete Walls – 5187 Sherkston Road**  
(Photo taken on July 21, 2023)

Appendix B: Historic Maps



Map 5: Subject Property Shown on an 1862 Historic Map  
 (Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; OHCMP 2018)

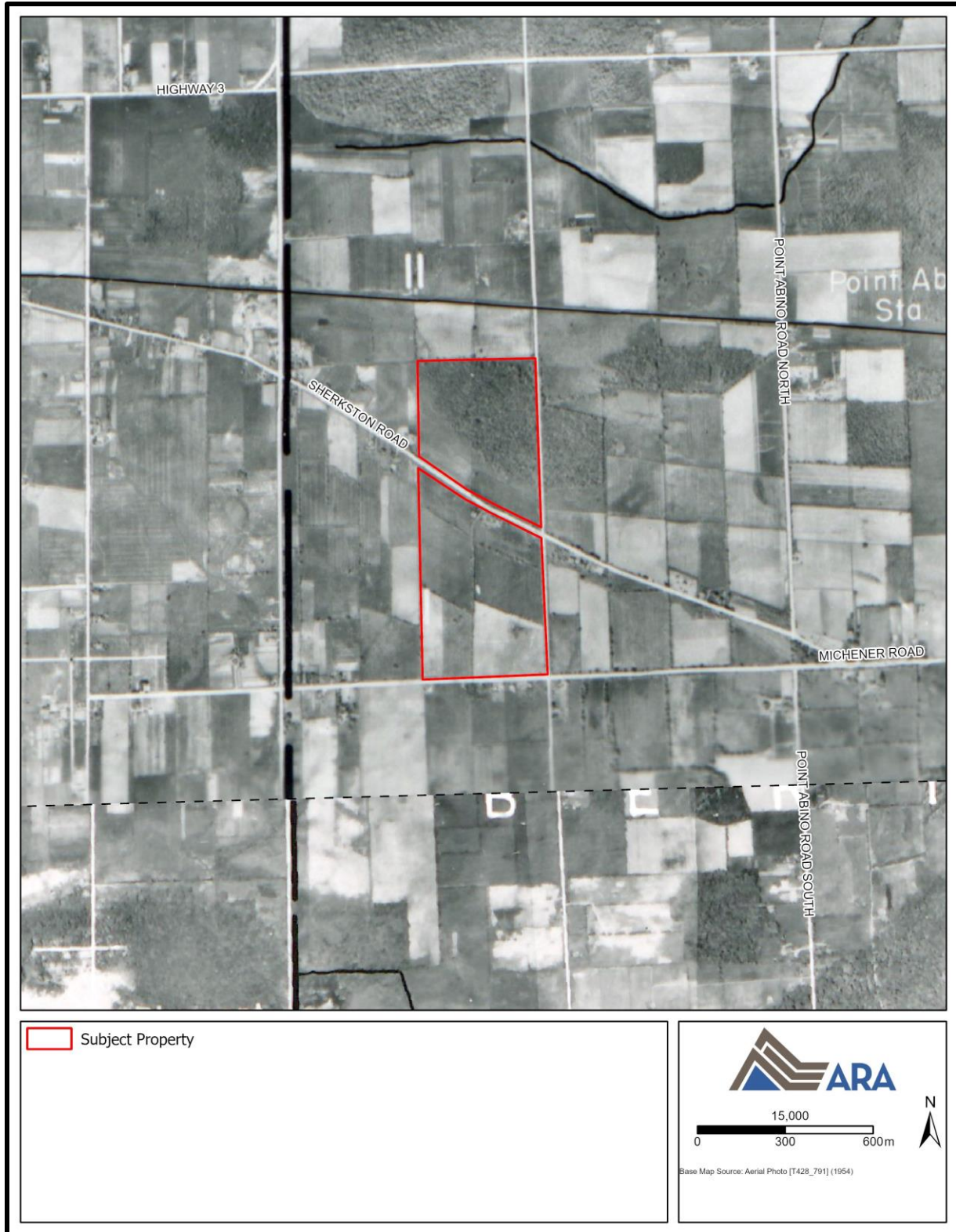




**Map 6: Subject Property Shown on an 1876 Historic Map**  
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; McGill University 2001)



**Map 7: Subject Property Shown on Historic 1907 Topographic Map  
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; OCUL 2021)**



**Map 8: Subject Property Shown on 1954 Aerial Photograph**  
(Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; University of Toronto 2021)

**Appendix C: Historic Photos**



**Figure 6: Undated Photo of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(FEHM 2023a)**



**Figure 7: Undated Photo of 5187 Sherkston Road  
(FEHM 2023b)**



## TOWN OF FORT ERIE

# HERITAGE PROPERTY EVALUATION FORM (SCORING)

Prepared By: The Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

Date:  
March 13, 2024

Subject Property:  
5187 Sherkston  
Road

## **Section A: Architecture**

### ***1. Style - Notable, rare, unique or early example of a particular architectural style or convention***

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 75 | Perfect or extremely early example if many survive, excellent example if few survive |
| 25 | Excellent or very early example if many survive; good example if few survive         |
| 15 | Good example if many survive   |
| 0  | Of no particular interest  |

SCORE:

### ***2. Construction – Notable, rare, unique or early example of a particular material or method***

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 75 | Perfect or extremely early example if any survive, excellent example if few survive |
| 25 | Excellent or very early example if many survive; good example if few survive        |
| 15 | Good example if many survive  |
| 0  | Of no particular interest   |

SCORE:

### ***3. Age – Comparatively old in the context of its region***

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 75 | Built between 1812-1837 |
| 25 | Built between 1838-1866 |
| 15 | Built between 1867-1914 |
| 0  | Built since 1915        |

SCORE:

**4. Architect – Designed or built by an architect or builder who has made a significant contribution to the community, province or nation**

- 20 Architect/Builder of particular importance to the history of the community, province or nation
- 10 Architect/Builder of considerable importance to the community, province or nation
- 5 Architect/Builder identified and known but of no particular importance
- 0 Architect/Builder unidentified or unknown

SCORE:

**5. Design – A particularly attractive or unique building because of the excellence, artistic merit or uniqueness of its design, composition, craftsmanship or detail**

- 20 Excellent
- 10 Very good
- 5 Good
- 0 Fair or poor

SCORE:

**6. Interior – Interior arrangement, finish, craftsmanship or details are particularly attractive or unique**

- 10 Excellent
- 5 Very good
- 3 Good
- 0 Fair or poor

SCORE:

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>ARCHITECTURAL TOTAL</b> | <b>65</b> |
|----------------------------|-----------|

## **Section B: History**

### ***1. Person – Associated with the life or activities of a person, group, organization or institution that has made a significant contribution to the community, province or nation***

- 75 Person/group of primary importance intimately connected to building
- 30 Person/group of primary importance loosely connected OR a person of secondary importance intimately connected to the building
- 15 Person/group of secondary importance loosely connected to building
- 0 Building has no connection with person or group of importance

SCORE: 

|    |
|----|
| 75 |
|----|

### ***2. Event – Associated with an event that has made a significant contribution to the community, province or nation***

- 75 Event of primary importance intimately connected with the building
- 30 Event of primary importance loosely connected OR event of secondary importance intimately connected with the building
- 15 Event of secondary importance loosely connected with the building
- 0 No important event is connected with the building

SCORE: 

|   |
|---|
| 0 |
|---|

### ***3. Context – Associated with and effectively illustrative of broad patterns of cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial history***

- 75 Patterns of primary importance intimately connected with building
- 30 Patterns of primary importance loosely connected OR patterns of secondary importance intimately connected with building
- 15 Patterns of secondary importance loosely connected to building
- 0 No important patterns are associated with the building

SCORE: 

|    |
|----|
| 75 |
|----|

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>HISTORY TOTAL</b> | <b>150</b> |
|----------------------|------------|



## **Section C: Context**

### **1. Continuity – Contributes to the continuity or character of the street neighbourhood or area**

- 75 Of particular importance in establishing the dominant character of the area
- 15 Of importance in establishing or maintaining the dominant character of the area
- 5 Compatible with the dominant character of the area
- 0 Incompatible with the dominant character of the area

SCORE: 

|    |
|----|
| 75 |
|----|

### **2. Landmark – A particularly important visual landmark**

- 100 A structure which may be taken as a symbol for the city or region as a whole
- 20 A conspicuous and familiar structure in the context of the city or region
- 5 A conspicuous and familiar structure in the context of the neighbourhood
- 0 Not particularly conspicuous or familiar

SCORE: 

|   |
|---|
| 0 |
|---|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>CONTEXT TOTAL</b> | <b>75</b> |
|----------------------|-----------|

## **Section D: Other**

### ***1. Archeological Resources – Archeological resources on the property have yielded or may yield information important to the history of the property or the community***

- 4            A significant archeological site is known to exist
- 3            A potentially significant archeological site or an identified archeological site of unknown importance is known to exist
- 1            A potential archeological site of unknown importance is suspected
- 0            Property is of little or no archeological significance

SCORE:

1

### ***2. Historic Grouping – The building is part of a historically associated grouping of older buildings***

- 4            The grouping strongly or exceptionally illustrated an important trend in the community
- 3            The grouping strongly illustrates a fairly important trend or pattern or illustrates major trend reasonably well
- 1            The grouping reasonably illustrates a trend or pattern of some note
- 0            The building is not part of an historic grouping of buildings

SCORE:

3

### ***3. Bonus – Some aspect or feature of the resource that does not lend itself to any of the above categories (i.e. smallest or largest, social or tourism value)***

- 5            Brick work, milk house, gate post, buggy step, over 200 years old

- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0

SCORE:

5

**OTHER TOTAL**

**9**

## **Section E: Integrity**

### **1. Site – The building occupies the original site**

- 5 Has not been moved
- 2 Has been places on a new foundation in its original location
- 1 Has been relocated or reoriented on the original property near the original site
- 0 Has been moved to a new site

SCORE:

### **2. Alterations – Has suffered little alteration and retains most of its original materials and design features**

| Condition (Score)              | Cornice (decorative trim) | Exterior (Upper Level) | Exterior (Ground Level) | Interior |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 2 – unchanged                  | 2                         | 2                      | 2                       | 2        |
| 1 – Changed character retained |                           |                        |                         |          |
| 0 – Character destroyed        |                           |                        |                         |          |

SCORE:

### **3. Condition – Building is in good structural condition and is maintained in good repair**

| Condition (Score) | Main Fabric | Additions | Roof | Interior | Grounds |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| 1 – Satisfactory  | 1           | 1         |      | 1        | 1       |
| 0 – Poor          |             |           | 0    |          |         |

SCORE:

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>INTREGRITY TOTAL</b> | <b>17</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------|

## **Section F: Final Evaluation**

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Architecture Total | 65         |
| History Total      | 150        |
| Context Total      | 75         |
| Other Total        | 9          |
| Integrity Total    | 17         |
| <b>TOTAL SCORE</b> | <b>316</b> |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 75 or more | Of major significance and importance, worthy of designation |
| 50 – 74    | Significant, worthy of preservation                         |
| 25 – 49    | Noteworthy, worthy of documentation                         |
| 0 – 24     | Of no importance  |

A property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining its cultural heritage value or interest:

1. The property has **design value** or **physical value** because it is:
  - i) Rare unique representative, early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method;
  - ii) Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit; and/or
  - iii) Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
  
2. The property has **historical value** or associative value because it:
  - i) Has direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community;
  - ii) Yields or has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture; and/or
  - iii) Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant in the community.
  
3. The property has **contextual value** because it:
  - i) Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area;
  - ii) Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings; and/or
  - iii) Is a landmark.

Recommendations:

The building has architectural, contextual, and historical value and is therefore worthy of designation under Part IV of *the Ontario Heritage Act*.



| Cultural Heritage Value or Interest  | Heritage Attribute   |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engraved gatepost cap which reads "M.B. Sherk 1916"</li> <li>• Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L-shaped plan;</li> <li>○ Cross gable roof;</li> <li>○ Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window</li> <li>○ All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills</li> <li>○ Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;</li> <li>○ Stone foundation</li> <li>○ Covered porch with stone foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inscribed ordinance stone</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Large bank barn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ T-shaped plan;</li> <li>○ Vertical barn board</li> <li>○ Gable roof</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <p>5187 Sherkston Road has historical value due to its association with the Sherk family, one of the pioneer families in Bertie Township.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed</li> <li>• Location on Sherkston Road, near Sherk's Corners, now Sherkston</li> <li>• Inscribed ordinance stone on porch foundation and engraved gatepost cap which reads "M.B. Sherk 1916"</li> </ul>   |
| <p>5187 Sherkston Road has contextual value because it supports and maintains the agricultural character of this portion of Sherkston Road</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed</li> <li>• Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Engraved gatepost cap which reads "M.B. Sherk 1916"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L-shaped plan;</li> <li>○ Cross gable roof;</li> <li>○ Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window</li> <li>○ All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills</li> <li>○ Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;</li> <li>○ Stone foundation</li> <li>○ Covered porch with stone foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inscribed ordinance stone</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Large Central Ontario Barn (bank barn): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ T-shaped plan</li> <li>○ Vertical barn board</li> <li>○ Gable roof</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

## 8.0 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Based on the evaluation of the property against O. Reg. 9/06 it was determined that 5187 Sherkston Road has CHVI. As such, a Statement of CHVI has been drafted below.

### *Introduction and Description of Property*

The property at 5187 Sherkston Road is located on the south side of Sherkston Road, which bisects the subject property boundary. The two-storey red brick farmhouse appears to be built circa 1889. A large T-shaped bank barn is located southwest of the farmhouse. The property is representative of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead and can be considered an evolved cultural heritage landscape.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value/Statement of Significance:

**5187 Sherkston Road has design value as a representative example of a 19th century farmstead.** The property contains several structures which could individually be considered to possess design and physical value; however, this significance is strengthened by the grouping of these buildings within the property. The property has a centralized 'farmstead' composed of a clustered grouping of buildings including a farmhouse, Central Ontario Barn, drive shed and milkhouse. The subject property also contains mature trees that separate the structures and act as windbreaks. The farmstead is modestly set back from the roadway with the farmhouse placed nearest to the road.

**5187 Sherkston Road contains a representative example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse.** The two-storey red brick farmhouse retains much of the original historic fabric. The overall massing, roof line, fenestration, windows, and large gable end with dichromatic brickwork are reflective of a Gothic Revival farmhouse architectural style. Gothic Revival dwellings are commonly found throughout Ontario especially on rural farmsteads.

**5187 Sherkston Road contains a representative example of a Central Ontario Barn (also known as a "bank barn").** The large two storey wooden structure is built on stone foundation set into a slope, with a gable roof, large side doors, and wood frame construction all representative features of this barn typology.

**5187 Sherkston Road has historical and associative value due to its long standing and significant association with members of the Sherk family.** Patriarch Michael Sherk, a Mennonite from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, moved his family to Ontario around 1790, and purchased the subject property in 1803 along with other lands. Numerous Sherk descendants settled in the Ridgeway area and the Sherks became synonymous with the area. Not only is the subject property location on Sherkston Road which extends multiple concessions, the intersection of what is now Holloway Bay Road and Sherkston Road was known as Sherk's Corners or Sherkston, after the Sherk family. The subject property has remained in the Sherk family for over 200 years, as descendants of Michael Sherk's continue to be associated with the property and still utilizes the land for agricultural purposes.

**5187 Sherkston Road has contextual value as it supports and maintains the agricultural and rural character of this portion of Sherkston Road.** There are several farms in the surrounding area including the adjacent properties. With a cluster of 19th century farmstead buildings set close to the road, the residence, a barn and associated agricultural fields, the property continues to reflect the bucolic rural nature and character of the surrounding area.

#### *Cultural Heritage Attributes*

5187 Sherkston Road is a representative example of a 19th century farmstead and includes a representative example of the Gothic Revival farmhouse and a Central Ontario barn. **The property contains the following heritage attributes related to this value:**

- 19th century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed

- Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step
  - Engraved gatepost cap which reads “M.B. Sherk 1916”
- Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse:
  - L-shaped plan;
  - Cross gable roof;
  - Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window
  - All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills
  - Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;
  - Stone foundation
  - Covered porch with stone foundation
  - Inscribed ordinance stone
- Large bank barn:
  - T-shaped plan;
  - Vertical barn board
  - Gable roof

5187 Sherkston Road has historical and associative value due to its long standing and significant association with members of the Sherk family. **The property contains the following heritage attributes related to this value:**

- 19th century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed
- Location on Sherkston Road, near Sherk’s Corners, now Sherkston
- Inscribed ordinance stone on porch foundation and engraved gatepost cap which reads “M.B. Sherk 1916”

5187 Sherkston Road has contextual value because it supports and maintains the agricultural character of this portion of Sherkston Road. **The property contains the following heritage attributes related to this value:**

- 19th century farmstead including farmhouse, Central Ontario barn, and driveshed
  - Stone wall with gateposts and buggy step
  - Engraved gatepost cap which reads “M.B. Sherk 1916”
- Two storey brick Gothic Revival farmhouse:
  - L-shaped plan;
  - Cross gable roof;
  - Large two-bay front gable with projecting bay window
  - All segmentally arched window and door openings with buff brick voussoirs and stone sills
  - Dichromatic decorative brick masonry detailing with Buff brick circle detail in front and side gable ends;
  - Stone foundation
  - Covered porch with stone foundation
  - Inscribed ordinance stone
- Large bank barn:
  - T-shaped plan;
  - Vertical barn board
  - Gable roof



## **9.0 MAP OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

The following figures display the heritage attributes as outlined above in Section 7.0.



## 10.0 CONCLUSIONS

*O. Reg. 9/06* of the *OHA* requires that to be designated, a property must meet at least two of the criteria. 5187 Sherkston Road meets three of the criteria for determining CHVI as outlined in *O. Reg. 9/06*, therefore it is worthy of designation under *O. Reg. 9/06* of the *OHA*.

The *Provincial Policy Statement* notes that CHVI is bestowed upon cultural heritage resources by communities (MMAH 2020). Accordingly, the system by which heritage is governed in this province places an emphasis on the decision-making of local municipalities in determining CHVI. It is hoped that the information presented in this report will be useful in those deliberations.