



Council Meeting
April 11, 2023



Township of Centre Wellington **Pierpoint Settlement Research Project**

Project Background



the **landplan**
STUDIO INC.

FOTENN
Planning + Design

Cultural Heritage Landscape Study & Inventory of the Township of Centre Wellington - Volume 1

Prepared for the Township of Centre Wellington
June 2021, last edited August 31, 2021

- Between 2019 and 2021, ASI conducted a CHL Study & Inventory in Centre Wellington to identify, evaluate, inventory and map significant CHLs located in the Township
- Through research, field review, understanding local features, and engagement with the community, 18 significant CHLs were identified



What is a Cultural Heritage Landscape?

Defined geographical area modified by human activity of cultural heritage value or interest



Designed

Garden at Fulford Place,
Brockville



Evolved

Scotsdale Farm, Halton Hills



Associative

Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung,
Manitou Mounds, Stratton

- The Grand River valley
- Historic villages
- Early transportation routes

- Parks and trails
- Agricultural properties
- Historic industrial sites

CHL Study: Pierpoint Settlement Recommendations

- The CHL Study & Inventory determined the Pierpoint Settlement to be an area that required further research



Outline of Pierpoint's land grant

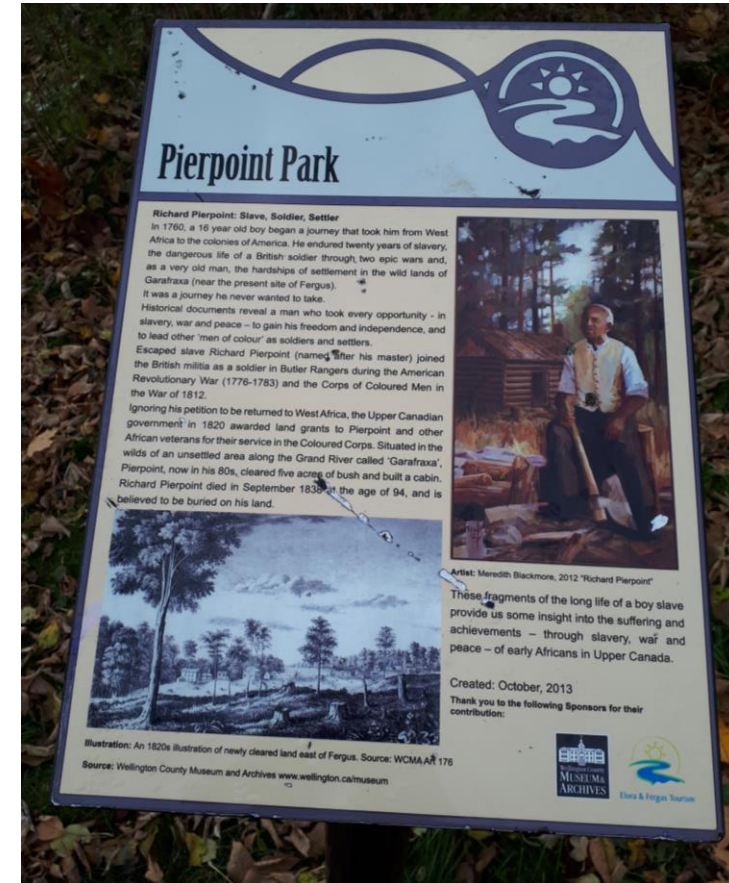
RECOMMENDATION:

- Further research to understand its potential for historical integrity and boundary delineation
- Specific consultation with the Black community to further understand community value
- Consideration for an interpretation plan to disseminate the history of the area to the broader community

What is the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project?

Project Goals

- Conduct research
- Work with the public and stakeholders
- Further understand and broaden awareness of Pierpoint's significance and history



What is the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project?



Methodology



Making Connections & Information Gathering

Focused on making connections with interested individuals and stakeholders to gather information

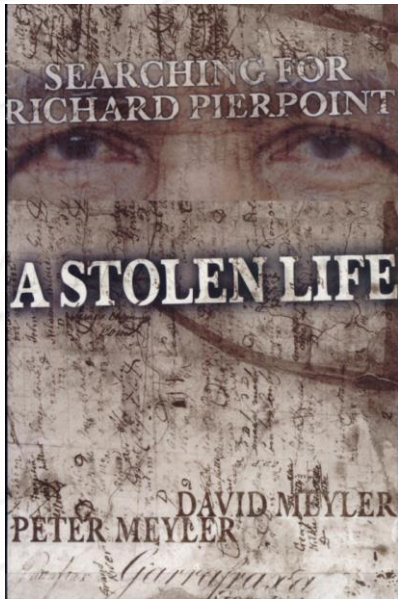
- Created and launched a project website
- Township invited the public, through the project website, to share information
- Individuals and groups were contacted by the consultant team via email
- Stakeholders were invited to share information regarding the Pierpoint Settlement that could assist with this research project
 - Stakeholders included: historians and academics, local residents, museums and archives, representative of historical/heritage societies/organizations

Making Connections & Information Gathering

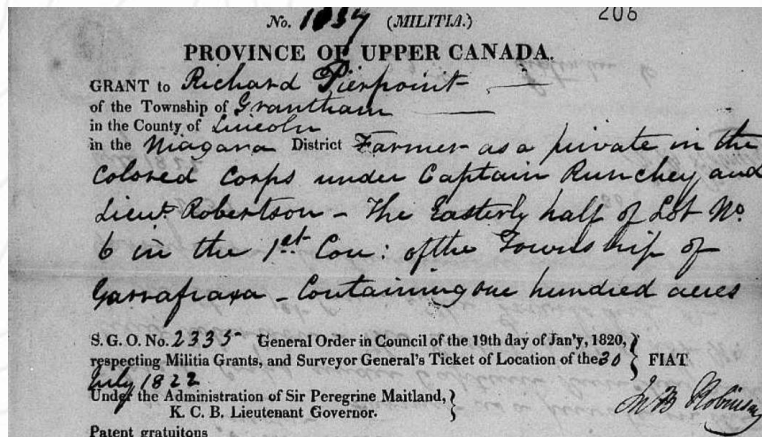
Focused on making connections with interested individuals and stakeholders to gather information

- Outreach activities occurred between April and the end of June 2022, with some follow-up in the Fall of 2022
- Responses ranged from:
 - A stated interest in the project and desire to be kept informed
 - Sharing of specific feedback, documents and sources of information
 - Suggestions as to who else to contact as part of the initial information gathering phase

Research



- Historical mapping and aerial photographs
- Published accounts of oral history
- Available archival records
- Secondary source publications
- Consultation with archivists, librarians, and historians
- Wellington County Museum and Archives
- Archives of Ontario
- Niagara Falls Museum



Research Questions/Topics

Who is Richard Pierpoint?

- General timeline of Richard Pierpoint's life, generally based on known archival records

What is the Pierpoint Settlement?

- Richard Pierpoint's land grant
- Potential location of Pierpoint's cabin
- Black land ownership around Pierpoint's property

Black land ownership in Upper Canada

- Queen's Bush Settlement

Public Workshop & Community Input



- Community Workshop held on December 1, 2022 at the Elora Community Centre
- Over 70 people attended the session
- The session provided a summary of the Pierpoint project's research, findings, and recommendations
- Following the presentation and short Q&A, participants were asked to partake in discussions at their tables

Public Workshop & Community Input

Breakout Session:

1. What is significant about Richard Pierpoint and his property? What are the stories that should be protected and shared?
2. How should the stories be told? Where should they be told?
3. What are some potential interpretive tools that could be used to recognize and broaden awareness of Pierpoint's significance and history in the Township and beyond?

Community Workshop: What we heard



Annotated maps from the Community Workshop

What is significant about Richard Pierpoint and his property? What are the stories that should be protected and shared?

- Pierpoint's military service and history of Black Loyalists
- Pierpoint's role as an early settler in the area
- Importance of Pierpoint's property as a stopping point on the route north for Black travelers
- History of strict restrictions on Black land ownership in Upper Canada

Community Workshop: What we heard

How should the stories be told? Where should they be told? What are some potential interpretive tools that could be used to recognize and broaden awareness of Pierpoint's significance and history in the Township and beyond?



Annotated maps from the Community Workshop

- Interpretation panels and signage, particularly at the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve
- Commemoration of Pierpoint's property as a resting place for travelers through the creation of a passive area with benches
- Recording of oral histories to interpret the site
- Site-specific installations including public art
- Permanent exhibition at the local museum
- Education at local schools
- Pierpoint's story made broadly available through posting information to municipal website, archives, and local libraries
- A larger interpretation effort that connects with other municipalities and sites focusing on Black history
- An interpretive centre
- Building a replica of Pierpoint's cabin

Additional Community Input

- Following the Community Workshop, the Centre Wellington Black Committee shared a document to serve as a supplement to the information that had already been gathered from the community
 - The document consists of a recommendation proposal for Pierpoint Park (Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve) and was prepared by the Centre Wellington Black Committee and the Pierpoint Neighbourhood Group.
 - The proposal focuses on recognizing and celebrating the significance of Richard Pierpoint and early Black settlement in the area while continuing to protect and preserve the natural and ecological importance of the park, a popular destination for fly fishers

Results & Recommendations

Key themes and sub-themes associated with the property:

- **Physiography and Nature:**
 - Grand River
 - Conservation and preservation efforts
- **Settlement:**
 - Early Black settlement
 - Influence of topography and physiography on settlement patterns
- **Agriculture**
 - Association with Blackburn Farms
- **Transportation:**
 - Grand River and early bridge crossings
 - Connections to Indigenous paths and travel routes; associations with Garafraxa Road
- **Industry:**
 - Mills and dams
- **Community Development:**
 - Parks, gardens, trails, valleys, conservation areas
 - Sports and recreation
 - Social organizations and stewardship

Results & Recommendations : Stories

Engagement with the community revealed that there were many significant stories to tell, both within the property and more broadly, including:

- Richard Pierpoint and his property in Garafraxa is part of the larger story of waves of Black settlement and displacement in Upper Canada in the late eighteenth and early to mid-nineteenth century.
- His property has been identified as a stopping point, a place of rest and refuge, for Black individuals and families on their own journey to set down roots in what was known as the Queen's Bush to the north.
- Following Pierpoint's death and the sale of his property in 1838, the property saw the establishment of a mill and early bridge crossing as seen on historical mapping, as well as associations with potential agriculture land uses as suggested by associations with Blackburn Farms.
- Pierpoint's property, and more specifically the part of the property that was donated to the Township to create the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve, has since developed into a site of commemoration, recreation, stewardship, and community development.
- What was once Richard Pierpoint's property could be considered as an evolved and associative cultural heritage landscape

Recommendations



1. Consideration of the section of Richard Pierpoint's property that now encompasses the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve as a **Significant C.H.L.**
2. Development of a **Community Working Group** to Advance Work associated with the Pierpoint Property



North East Half of Lot 6, Concession 1

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North East Half of Lot 6, Concession 1

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Thank you



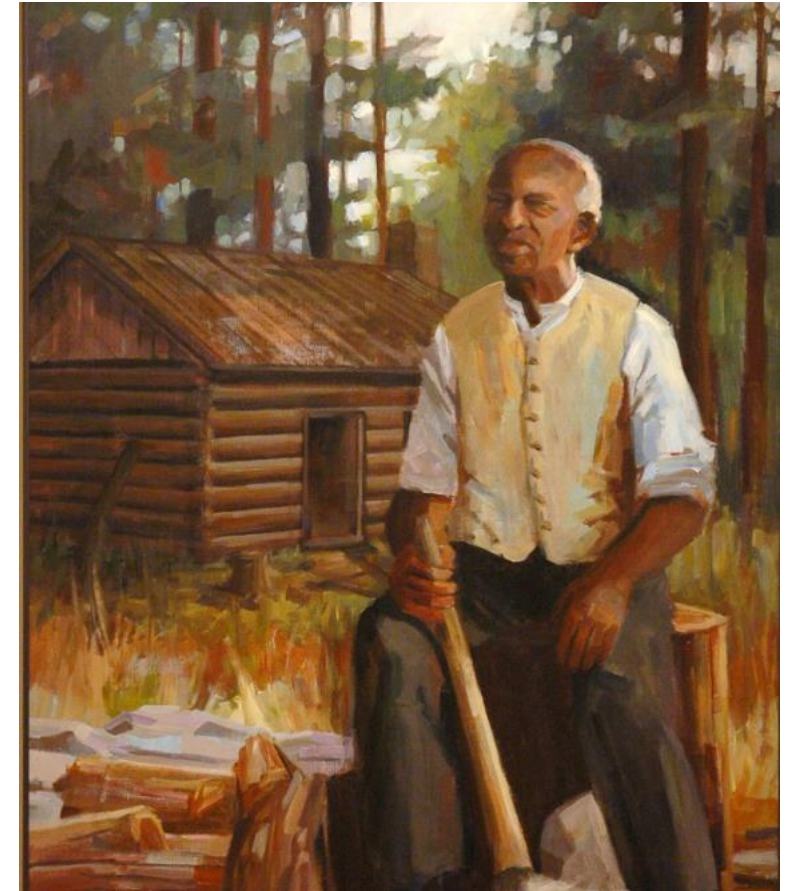
Malcolm Jones
Canadian War Museum/1.E.2.4-CGR2



Wang Qijun
The Kids Book of Black Canadian History



Historica Canada &
Christopher Hemsworth Creative



Detail of painting by Meredith Blackmore, 2012
Wellington Museum and Archives, Art 1149