
To: Mayor Watters and Members of Council

Report: PLN2023-50

Prepared By: Mariana Iglesias, Manager of Planning Services

Date: 25 Sep 2023

RE: Notice of Intent to Designate - 255 Lamond Street, Fergus (Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve)

Recommendation:

THAT the Council of the Township of Centre Wellington issues a Notice of Intent to Designate the property municipally known as 255 Lamond Street, Fergus, also currently known as the "Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve", as a significant cultural heritage landscape pursuant to Section 29 (Part 4) of the Ontario Heritage Act; and

THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the notice requirements outlined in Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act; and

THAT, if no objections are received within the prescribed time period, staff prepare and provide the designation by-law to Council for enactment as per Ontario Heritage Act requirements;

AND THAT staff be authorized to proceed with establishing a Pierpoint Community Working Group through the Healthy Communities Advisory Committee to develop an interpretation and commemoration program and report back to Council as required.

Report:

In April 2023, planning staff brought forward report PLN2023-17 concerning the findings of the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project. Through that report, Council directed staff through the following Council resolution (numbers added for ease of later reference):

- 1) *THAT the Council of the Township of Centre Wellington receives for information the "Pierpoint Settlement Research Project: Interpretation Framework" report prepared by Archaeological Services Inc., provided as Attachment 1 to staff report PLN2023-17; and*
- 2) *THAT the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve be added to the Centre Wellington Cultural Heritage Landscape Inventory and the Cultural Heritage Landscapes Official Plan Amendment Project as an identified significant cultural heritage landscape; and*

3) THAT staff be directed to bring forward a report concerning heritage designation of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve as a significant cultural heritage landscape under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act;

4) AND THAT staff be directed to report back on the development of a Pierpoint Community Working Group to advance work associated with the Pierpoint Research Project.

The first direction above is administrative in nature. The second has been fulfilled through ongoing work on the Official Plan Amendment (OPA) Project which will be coming back to Council over the coming months through a separate report and consultation process. This staff report PLN2023-50 addresses the third and fourth staff directions, as outlined below.

Staff Direction 3: Heritage Designation

In accordance with the above Council resolution, staff is bringing forward this report recommending that Council issue a Notice of Intent to Designate the property at 255 Lamond Street, Fergus, currently known as the "Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve", pursuant to Section 29, Part 4, of the Ontario Heritage Act. A location map showing the property is included as Attachment #1 to this report.

The property is owned by the Township and serves as a passive municipal park and nature reserve for public use. It is located on the eastern fringe of the Fergus Urban Centre on the north side of the Grand River. The Township's retained heritage consultant for the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project and related Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) Inventory and Official Plan Amendment (OPA) projects, Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI - Heritage), was retained to prepare the necessary heritage research report to support heritage designation. It is attached to this report as Attachment #2.

The evaluation of cultural heritage value is prescribed by Ontario Regulation 9/06 and was completed, as provided in Section 4.0 of the attached report. A Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Heritage Attributes upon which the required legislated notice and future designation by-law will be drafted has been prepared, included in Section 5.0 of the attached report. The Statement of Cultural Heritage Value outlines a description of the property, its heritage values, and identifies the physical heritage attributes that have been identified as representative of those heritage values and which are intended to be conserved in perpetuity wherever possible. Should Council decide to state a "Notice of Intent to Designate" the property, and provided no appeals to the notice are received within the statutory 30 day appeal period, staff will prepare the designation by-law for subsequent enactment by Council.

As required by the Ontario Heritage Act, Heritage Centre Wellington was consulted on Council's behalf regarding the proposed designation and considered the matter at its regular meeting on September 12, 2023. The committee, having been actively involved in the overall project since its inception, was supportive of the designation recommendation.

Heritage Policy Framework

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2020) directs municipalities to conserve significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes (Policy 2.6.1). The Planning Act requires land use planning decisions by municipalities and approval authorities to be consistent with the policies in the PPS. Section 4.1 of the County's Official Plan reflects the above policy direction and definitions. The County's policies encourage the identification of significant cultural heritage landscapes to be implemented through one of several measures, including designation under the Ontario Heritage Act or identification in an Official Plan. In the case of the subject property, the property would be identified through both mechanisms. It is intended to be protected through individual heritage designation, which is suitable for CHLs that have a relatively small and easily defined geographic area. In addition, the property has been included in the Township's CHL Inventory and will be identified through policy direction and mapping as part of the concurrent OPA project.

Section C.2 of the Township's Official Plan encourages significant heritage buildings, structures, sites and landscapes to be identified and protected. The Official Plan (C.2.21) states that: "Heritage resources encompass more than just old buildings; they can include complete landscapes as well. Cultural heritage landscapes represent the interrelationship between people and the natural environment, and the combined works of nature and man. Cultural heritage landscapes provide a sense of place and identity to the community." The property has been added to the Township's CHL Inventory and will be identified through a future OPA. This project is ongoing and is expected to be presented to Council in the near future as the work unfolds.

Furthermore, policy C.2.14 of the Township's Plan specifically encourages the Township to express its commitment to the protection of municipally owned heritage properties to provide a vivid example of the benefits of heritage conservation to the community. The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is an area used as a passive park and nature reserve by many residents and tourists. It is a highly valued and enjoyed public space. Designation of this property as a valuable CHL helps to showcase this community asset and the Township's commitment to its long term conservation. The recommendation made in this report is aligned with the above policy framework and objectives of both the County and Township policies regarding identification and conservation of the Township's heritage resources, specifically its cultural heritage landscapes.

Staff Direction 4: Pierpoint Community Working Group

In accordance with the above Council resolution, staff has reviewed the recommendations previously made by the heritage consultant and presented in planning staff report PLN2023-17 related to the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project. To reiterate, the following recommendations were previously made by the consultant:

"It is recommended that the Township of Centre Wellington develop a working group with members of staff and members of the public (e.g., representatives of the Centre Wellington Black Committee, the Pierpoint Neighbourhood Group, or other interested

parties) to work together to further develop an interpretation and commemoration program for the Pierpoint Property. This program can build on the information contained herein and in the proposal prepared by the Centre Wellington Black Committee and the Pierpoint Neighbourhood Group for the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve.

Should the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve (or other name) be recognized as a Significant C.H.L. by Council, consideration should be given to the development of a Management or Stewardship Plan for the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve in collaboration with the Working Group. The Management or Stewardship Plan could include recommendations for further research within the nature reserve, as appropriate."

Staff recommends fulfilling the above objectives by establishing an ad hoc working group through the recently established "Healthy Communities Advisory Committee", as approved through staff report CAO2023-10. As per the Terms of Reference for this Committee, this committee is anticipated to have two main working groups which include the "Activity, Health, and Wellness" and the "Active Transportation" working groups. The stated purpose of the "Activity, Health and Wellness Working Group" is: "to provide advice and recommendations on parks, recreation, arts, and culture matters. Additionally, comments on projects ranging from master planning, non-operational policy matters, marketing and promotion initiatives, and support of local arts and cultural events and programming". In addition, the Committee may establish working groups for specific topics, issues or proposals, as required on an ad-hoc basis. Working groups will report back to the full Committee and may include non-Committee members when additional expertise is required. Working groups will cease when the issue has been reported on or resolved.

The Terms of Reference would allow an ad-hoc "Pierpoint Working Group" to be established and managed by staff, including Planning staff and Community Services staff with administrative assistance from the Clerks Department. Other staff would be consulted as required. The Pierpoint Working Group would function under the main Terms of Reference, but would include members with specific interests in the Pierpoint research project, as identified above (i.e. including at least one member of the Centre Wellington Black Committee, at least one member from the Pierpoint Neighbourhood Group, one member from the Wellington County Museum and Archives, and up to two additional interested parties). This working group could report to the full Healthy Communities Advisory Committee through the Activity, Health and Wellness Working Group or as a separate working group. The most efficient and effective administration of this group will be confirmed by staff. This methodology would allow the group to begin working immediately.

Therefore, staff recommends that Council direct staff to establish a Pierpoint Working Group immediately in order to further develop a workplan for an interpretation and commemoration program, as well as a management/stewardship plan for the property. This work would include, but not be limited to: public education and commemoration initiatives (Township website, social media, etc.), directional signage, naming and messaging, physical improvements, commemorative (storyboard) signage and initiatives,

public events, etc. This work will be undertaken in consultation with other community groups and agencies as required, such as Parks Canada.

It should be noted that this report is coming forward to Council at the same time as a Parks Canada plaque unveiling ceremony is being planned, as detailed in Community Services staff report CS2023-24. The proposed Parks Canada plaque will also be installed at this property to honour and commemorate Richard Pierpoint as a National Historic Person. The Township designation of this property furthers the work of honouring Richard Pierpoint and his contribution to the early history of the Township and specifically the history of early Black Canadians. Township staff have been working closely with Parks Canada staff on these initiatives and will continue to work cooperatively as these projects move forward. The municipal designation will also see the traditional heritage designation plaque installed at the site. The Pierpoint Working Group will explore the existing signage at the property to determine sufficiency and improvements that may be needed. Any recommendations requiring funding or other Council approval resulting from the work of the working group will proceed to Council for decision.

Corporate Strategic Plan:

Improve the activity, health & wellness of our community

Managing growth while enhancing the community's unique character

Championing environmental stewardship

Financial Implications:

The Notice of Intention to Designate will be published in a local newspaper as required by the Ontario Heritage Act. The notice will be funded from the heritage committee's operating budget. There are also legal fees associated with review and registration of the designation by-law.

Consultation:

- Heritage Centre Wellington as required.
- Planning staff has consulted with Community Services staff, who maintain the property, and senior management in order to ensure that the appropriate staff are aware of the proposed designation and any implications for future maintenance and/or plans for the property.
- Members of the above mentioned community groups and agencies will be advised of the date of this report proceeding to Council.

Attachments:

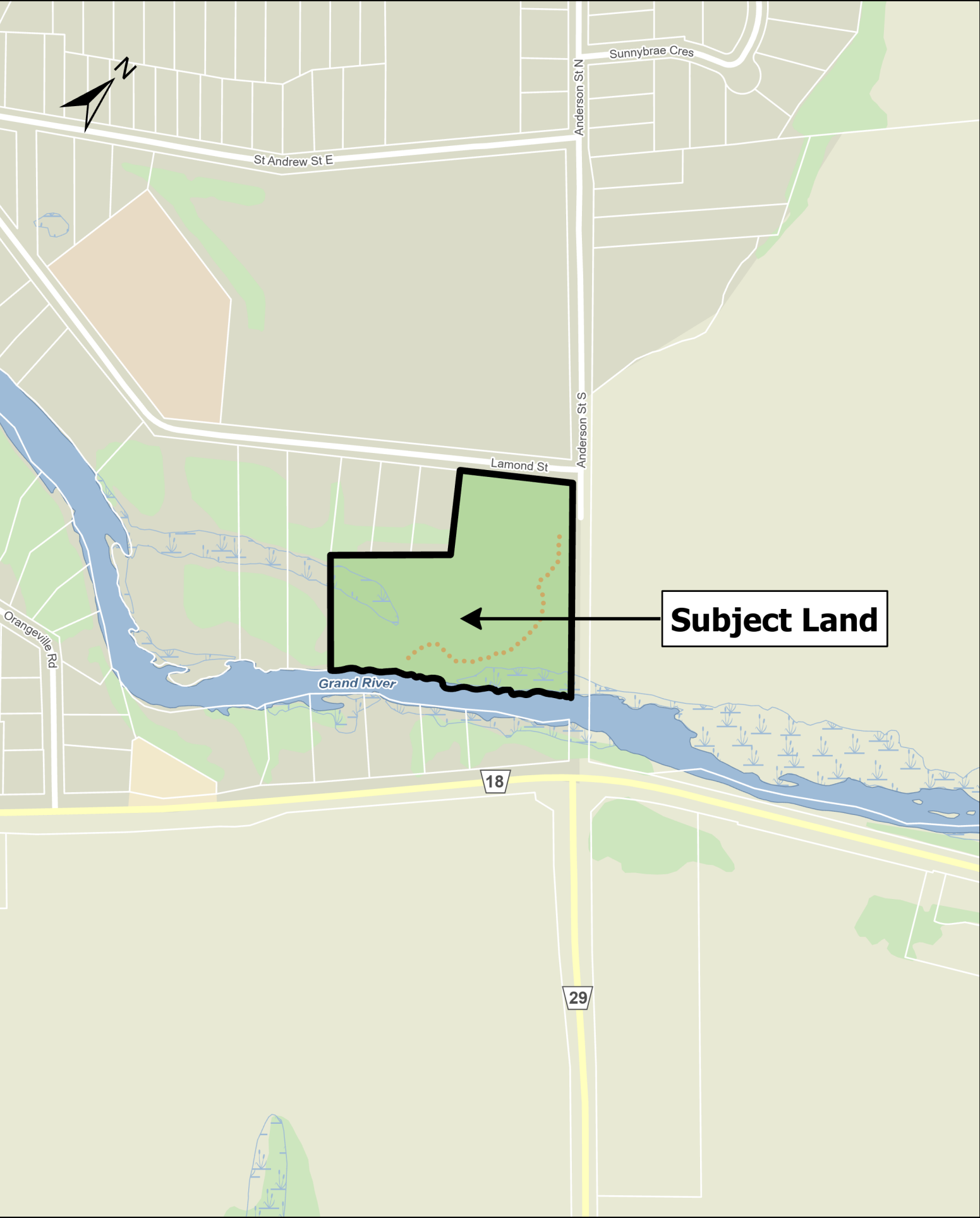
- [Att 1 - Location Map 255 Lamond Street](#)
- [Att 2 - Pierpoint Designation Report Final 7Sept2023](#)

Approved By:

Brett Salmon, Managing Director of Planning and Development

Dan Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject Land: 255 Lamond Street, Fergus



Heritage Designation Report

Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve

Township of Centre Wellington, Ontario

Prepared for:

Township of Centre Wellington

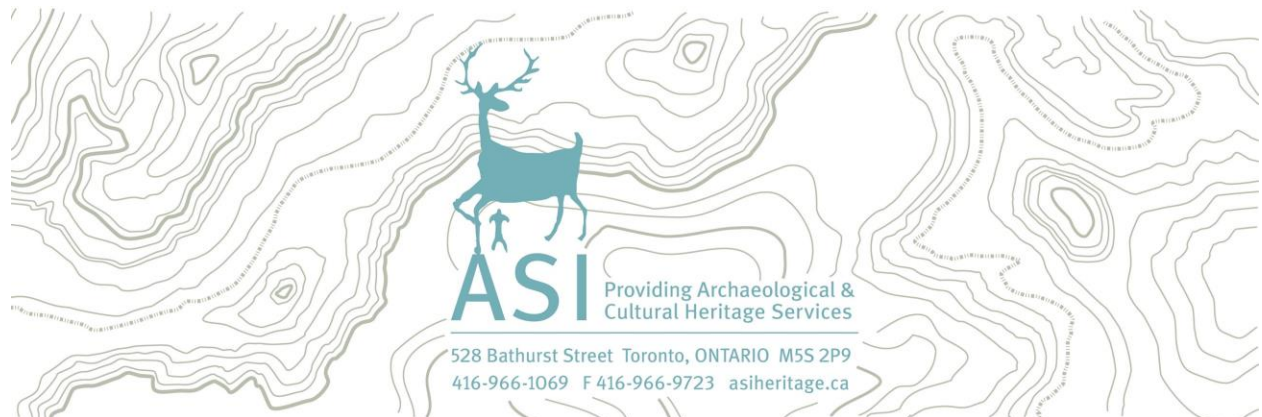
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Elora, ON

N0B 1S0

Archaeological Services Inc. File: 23CH-083

June 2023 (updated September 2023)



Executive Summary

Archaeological Services Incorporated (A.S.I.) was contracted by the Township of Centre Wellington to support the development of a Heritage Designation Report for the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve, also locally known as Pierpoint Park, at 255 Lamond Street in Fergus. The report is being undertaken to determine the cultural heritage value of the subject property and provide a draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and a list of heritage attributes. The report is based on a site visit, research previously conducted as part of the *Centre Wellington CHL Study and Inventory* (ASI, 2021) and the *Pierpoint Settlement Research Project* (A.S.I., 2023), as well as some additional research.

The evaluation confirmed that the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve meets at least two of the nine O.Reg. 9/06 criteria and can be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The cultural heritage value or interest of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve lies in its historical/associative values and contextual values. A statement of cultural heritage value or interest and description of heritage attributes have been developed and which can be integrated into a designation by-law for the property.



Report Accessibility Features

This report has been formatted to meet the Information and Communications Standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (A.O.D.A.). Features of this report which enhance accessibility include: headings, font size and colour, alternative text provided for images, and the use of periods within acronyms. Given this is a technical report, there may be instances where additional accommodation is required in order for readers to access the report's information. If additional accommodation is required, please contact Annie Veilleux, Manager of the Cultural Heritage Division at Archaeological Services Inc., by email at aveilleux@asiheritage.ca or by phone 416-966-1069 ext. 255.



Project Personnel

Principal-in-Charge: Rebecca Sciarra, M.A., C.A.H.P., Partner, Director – Cultural Heritage Division

Project Manager: Annie Veilleux, M.A. C.A.H.P., Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist, Manager – Cultural Heritage Division

Project Coordinator: Jessica Bisson, B.F.A. (Hon.), Dip. Heritage Conservation, Project Administrator – Cultural Heritage Division

Site Visit: Lindsay Parsons, M.M.St., M.P.L., Cultural Heritage Technician, Technical Writer and Researcher – Cultural Heritage Division; Annie Veilleux

Additional Research: Michael Wilcox, P.h.D., Historian – Cultural Heritage Division

Report Production: Lindsay Parsons; Annie Veilleux; Michael Wilcox

Graphics Production: Peter Bikoulis, P.h.D., Archaeologist, Geomatics Technician – Operations Division

Report Reviewer(s): Rebecca Sciarra; Annie Veilleux



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1.0 Introduction

Archaeological Services Incorporated (A.S.I.) was contracted by the Township of Centre Wellington to support the development of a Heritage Designation Report for the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve, also locally known as Pierpoint Park, at 255 Lamond Street in Fergus (Figure 1). The report is being undertaken to determine the cultural heritage value of the subject property and provide a draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and a list of heritage attributes. The report is based on a site visit/field review, as well as research previously conducted as part of the *Centre Wellington CHL Study and Inventory* (ASI, 2021) and the *Pierpoint Settlement Research Project* (A.S.I., 2023).

Based on the research and results of the field survey, the subject area will be evaluated using Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to assess whether that the property meets at least two of the nine O. Reg. 9/06 criteria.

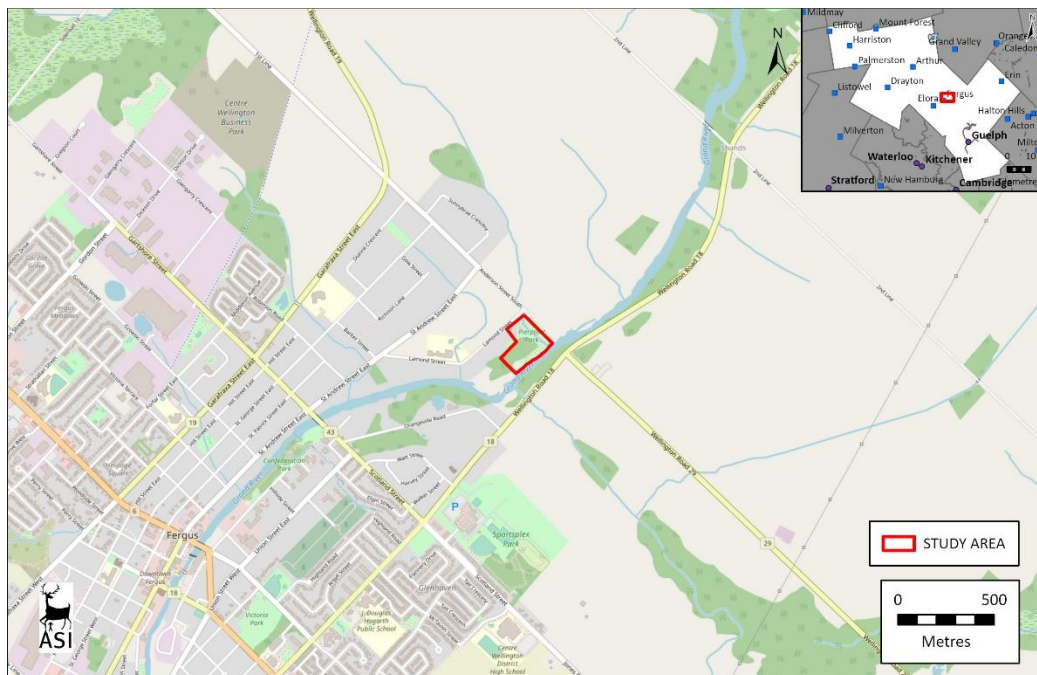


Figure 1: Location of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve.
Source: (c) Open Street Map contributors, Creative Commons n.d.

1.1 Project Background

Over the course of 2020-21, the Township of Centre Wellington retained A.S.I., in collaboration with The Landplan Studio Inc. and Fotenn Planning + Design, to undertake a *Cultural Heritage Landscape Study and Inventory* of the Township (ASI, 2021). That undertaking was initiated to identify, evaluate, inventory, and map significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes (C.H.L.s) throughout the Township. The study made recommendations for identified significant C.H.L.s and the ongoing identification and evaluation of areas which may be recognized as C.H.L.s in the future.

In June 2021, Council endorsed the *Cultural Heritage Landscape Study and Inventory*. At that time, the Pierpoint Settlement (including the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve) was considered a potential C.H.L. This site was recommended for further research to understand its potential historical integrity and boundary delineation, and that more focused consultation be undertaken to further understand the significance of the site to the community. The report also recommended that the area should be considered for an interpretation/commemoration plan to disseminate the history to the broader community. The Township prioritized the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project as one of the first implementation strategies to be initiated, and as recommended as part of the C.H.L. Study.

What resulted was the *Pierpoint Settlement Research Project Interpretation Framework* (A.S.I., 2023). This study involved detailed historical research as well as engagement with the public to better understand the history, location, and significance of Richard Pierpoint's property, and in consultation with the public and stakeholders, to determine appropriate protection, interpretation, and/or commemoration strategies to recognize and broaden awareness of Pierpoint's significance and history. Research findings combined with the results from the community engagement program revealed that the Pierpoint property represents several historical themes determined to be important to the development of the Township of Centre Wellington, including themes associated with physiography and nature, settlement, agriculture,



transportation, industry, and community development. The report recommended that the Township of Centre Wellington consider the section of Richard Pierpoint's property that now encompasses the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve for inclusion on the *Cultural Heritage Landscape Study and Inventory* as a significant C.H.L. Further, it recommended that the nature reserve's boundary be considered as the boundary of the potential C.H.L. and that it be added to the ongoing Official Plan Amendment Project to formally recognize the Significant C.H.L.s in the Township's Official Plan through mapping and development of enabling policies.

On April 11, 2023, the Centre Wellington Council approved the inclusion of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve as a significant cultural heritage landscape on the *Cultural Heritage Landscape Inventory* and in the Cultural Heritage Landscapes Official Plan Amendment Project. Moreover, because the Township of Centre Wellington has taken a proactive approach to protecting properties of cultural heritage value or interest through their Heritage Register, Council has also directed staff to bring forward a report concerning heritage designation of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The subject report fulfills this recommendation.

2.0 Site History

The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve, also locally known as Pierpoint Park, is located at 255 Lamond Street in Fergus, Ontario. The following provides a summary of the existing research on the site as well as additional research undertaken for this report. For a detailed account of the history of the Pierpoint property, which consists of the east half of Lot 1, Concession 6, West Garafraxa, see the *Pierpoint Settlement Research Project Interpretation Framework* (A.S.I., 2023)

2.1 Summary of Existing Research

The *Pierpoint Settlement Research Project Interpretation Framework* (A.S.I., 2023) provided an in-depth history of Richard Pierpoint, his land grant in Garafraxa Township, and land owners of the property following Pierpoint's



death. It also briefly touched on themes of early Black land ownership and Black settlement in the area and in Upper Canada more broadly. Research findings were based on a review of available archival records, published accounts of oral history, secondary source publications, and historical mapping.

The property on which the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is located once belonged to Richard Pierpoint. Pierpoint was born in the Bundu region of what is now Senegal, but was captured, enslaved, and brought to America in 1760. Following his service in fighting for the British in the American Revolutionary War, Pierpoint was ultimately granted 200 acres in Grantham Township, Upper Canada, in 1791. He fought for the British once again during the War of 1812, and was responsible for creating an all-Black Corps. For his service in the War of 1812, Pierpoint was granted the east half of Lot 6, Concession 1 in Garafraxa Township, on the outskirts of what is now Fergus, in 1822. By 1825, his settlement duties, a prerequisite for land ownership, were completed by two men named John Brown and Levi Johnson. Ultimately, Richard Pierpoint received the patent to these 100 acres in 1826 or 1836.¹

Archival research and oral history together suggest that Richard Pierpoint's property/cabin was most likely used on a seasonal basis and may have been used as a stopping point for people travelling to the Queen's Bush, along the Garafraxa Road, north of Fergus. Pierpoint undoubtedly visited his land in Garafraxa and may have resided there temporarily while he or someone acting on his behalf, such as John Brown and Levi Johnson, performed the required settlement duties on the property.

It is unknown precisely where Pierpoint's cabin may have been built. However, a few locations have been suggested by community members, including along Lamond Street near the John Black School; within the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve; as well as a few locations outside of the boundaries of Pierpoint's land grant. Only a few other Black settlers owned property in the

¹ The digitized images provided by Teranet consists of a digitized microfilm copy of the abstract indexes that were made from photocopies of the originals, creating an unclear image.



vicinity around this time, though they are not known to have lived thereon. Of land granted to Black men for their military service in Garafraxa, only Pierpoint's property appears to have retained Black ownership or use for any length of time. The surviving census and assessment records from the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century also suggest that there was no permanent settlement either by free Black individuals or freedom seekers within Garafraxa Township following Pierpoint's death. This is unsurprising, given that the Upper Canadian government had a very restrictive policy on land ownership by Black settlers from the 1790s to the 1830s, with land reserved only for Black men who had carried out military service.²

Pierpoint bequeathed the property to Lemuel Brown in 1838, and soon thereafter, Brown sold the property to farmer Alexander Drysdale. The property was owned by just a handful of families thereafter, including Alexander Dingwall Fordyce (1851), James Lamond Smith (1853), and farmer/grain merchant John Black (1880). This lot remained in the possession of the Black family, as part of the "Blackburn Farm" for more than a century. In 1997 it was bought by Robert D. and Lynda K. Grant. In 2010, Robert and Lynda Grant donated land to the Township in what was once Richard Pierpoint's land grant for the creation of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve. Restrictive covenants were registered on title, with an emphasis on ensuring that the property serve as a passive park, open to all with no entrance fees, to accommodate fly fishing access to the Grand River, but also to encourage an appreciation of nature. As part of the covenants, it was also determined that the area should be named Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve.

Nineteenth and twentieth-century mapping show the changes to the Pierpoint property over time. The following mapping review discusses what is depicted on

² Land ownership was later permitted by Black people, but only for lands that they had purchased from other Black owners (i.e., military claimants), or from whites who were willing to sell land to Black settlers. It was often easier for Black individuals to purchase land in urban areas. For instance, Black inhabitants purchased town lots in the Town of Niagara (Niagara-on-the-Lake) during the 1830s and 1840s, and in St. Catharines during that that same period.



these maps, with special emphasis devoted to the location of what is now the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve.

The 1821 West Garafraxa Patent Plan (Figure 4) shows part of Lot 6, Concession 1 of Garafraxa Township as the property of Richard Pierpoint. There is no indication on this map of any nearby settlement or structures. The 1861 Tremaine's Map of Wellington County (Figure 5) shows the Pierpoint property as the Grain lot and east of the Grain's sawmill site. The 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas (Figure 6) depicts the property belonging to J.L. (James Lamond) Smith, though no structures are shown.

An undated sketch of the east half of Lot 6, Concession 1 (Figure 7) depicts a number of structures and features, including a sawmill, a dam, bridges, roads, stables, potential fence lines, and shanties within Pierpoint's land grant. Some of the names on the sketch include Duncan, Gow, and Cameron. Based on the illustrated features, the sketch may have been created in the 1880s (the dam was destroyed in 1888).

The 1906 Wellington Atlas map of West Garafraxa Township (Figure 8) shows the property south of the village of "Glenlammond." The subject property appears to be part of a larger property owned by Helen Black. No structures appear within the subject property, though three structures are depicted on the south side of the Grand River on lands belonging to John Mitchell and James R. Caldwell. The 1935 topographic map (Figure 9) shows the area to be in a rural context, east of Fergus. No structures are depicted. The 1954 aerial photograph (Figure 10) depicts the subject property in a rural-agricultural context. A small pond appears to be located adjacent to the west of the subject property. The area seems to be largely devoid of trees, and an unnamed creek appears to run through the property in a generally north-south orientation. This same creek is visible on the 1980 topographic map (Figure 11), though the pond is no longer shown. No other features or structures are depicted on the map.



2.2 Additional Research

Stemming from the research carried out as part of the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project (summarized above), some key additional areas of interest have been flagged for supplemental research for this designation report. As the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is located in the southeastern corner of Pierpoint's former land allotment, further research into the land use history of this particular site (or very near to it) was warranted, particularly with regard to potential themes of industry, transportation, and agriculture, and how these relate to and are currently reflected in the subject property.

2.2.1 Industry – James Lamond Smith's Dam and Mill

James Lamond Smith purchased the former Pierpoint property in 1853. In 1855 or 1856, he erected a large dam across the Grand River approximately half a mile upstream from the Garafraxa town line (Thorning, 1996). While approximate, this location appears to coincide with the land slightly west of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve site. The dam was built to support Lamond's newly-established sawmill, which had a stone foundation and was located on the river's south side. A bridge was also constructed in the vicinity around this time (Templin, 1933; Thorning, 1996).³ Smith had hoped to attract other industrial establishments along the river's shoreline near the dam and sawmill (Thorning, 1996). However, except for a lime kiln – which relied on the sawmill for log which were used as fuel to make the lime – on the north side of the river, the anticipated industrial area did not come to fruition (Templin, 1933). Nevertheless, the area employed “as many as sixty men” in the mid-to-late nineteenth century (The News Record, 1964).

³ Thorning notes the following with regard to the precise location of the sawmill and dam: “Smith showed a degree of ingenuity in locating the dam and sawmill. The river bed narrowed slightly at the site, permitting a shorter dam, and the water backed up in such a way that logs could be hoisted directly into the sawmill from the water” (Thorning, 1996).



There are differing interpretations for the history of the mill in the decades thereafter. According to local historian Hugh Templin as well as 1964 newspaper account of the history of Glen Lamond's industries, the sawmill was subsequently owned by William Grain, William C. Reid, William Gow, and Hugh Black, who may have erected a new frame mill at this location in the 1870s (Templin, 1933). The dam was ultimately destroyed by the spring flood of 1888, and caused significant damage to the mill (The News Record, 1964). It closed at an unknown date sometime thereafter. Smaller sawmills were then erected by John Watson and Reuben Batho "near the site of the old Black sawmill close to the Garafraxa townline" at some point in the early decades of the twentieth century (Templin, 1933).

However, according to Thorning, Smith arranged the sale of the sawmill to William Grain c. 1858. By 1866, Grain rented out the mill to Hugh Black. However, Grain sold the mill to John Wilson c. 1874 and Wilson then resold the mill back to James Lamond Smith in 1876. The holders of the mortgage on the mill, Confederation Life, secured ownership in 1886. The mill, depicted in a c. 1880 photograph (Figure 2), was likely rented out to one of Hugh Cameron, William Gerrie, or W.C. Reid, and remained operational until the 1890s before being torn down c. 1902. In 1906, Confederation Life sold the mill property to John Mitchell, whose name appears on the 1906 map (Figure 8).





Figure 2: Dam and Sawmill at Glen Lamond, looking northeast from the south side of the Grand River, c. 1880 – ph9695 (Wellington County Museum and Archives, 2022)

2.2.2 Transportation – Glen Lamond Bridge

The Wellington County Museum and Archives has an 1887 photograph of “the last wooden bridge in Glen Lamond” (Figure 3) (Wellington County Museum and Archives, 2022). The description notes that the photograph includes builder Richard Boyle, his workers, and horses. The use of the word “last” suggests that there had been previous crossings at or near this location in Glen Lamond, facilitating access between the residences and roadways on either side of the Grand River, as well as to the mill site, described above.

While it is unknown what types of crossings there were at this location in the nineteenth century, it can be assumed that they were simple wooden structures. The bridge in the photograph below appears to be more sophisticated in terms of its construction. It appears to be a single span wood structure with wood abutments and a Queen Post truss system which uses two tension members along with diagonal bracing. This bridge may be the one found

on the former Pierpoint property, approximately 300 metres west of the Nature Reserve site (see Figure 7).

Local historian Stephen Thorning notes that spring flooding on the Grand River occurred frequently, and could often be destructive, particularly to bridges and to adjacent properties. The crossings at Glen Lamond appear to have been destroyed several times. It remains unknown when the last crossing was extant, but various writers have posited some theories. Writing in 1933, Hugh Templin notes that around 1899, “the ice lifted off the little bridge at Glen Lamond ... and it came floating down and battered off the Fergus bridge” which was located at the Garafraxa town line (present day Gartshore Street) (Templin, 1933).

Similarly, another local historian, Pat Mestern, writes that the “spindly wooden bridge ... at Glen Lamond ... went out with a devastating spring flood in the early 1900s and was not rebuilt” (Mestern, 2002).⁴ Finally, Stephen Thorning notes that, in March 1912, “the rising waters carried away the bridge at Glen Lamond, which floated through town intact” and even made it all the way to Galt in one piece (Thorning, n.d.).

⁴ Mestern continues by suggesting that this was the last crossing at Glen Lamond: “That’s why today the 2nd Concession, known now as Wellington Road 29, doesn’t cross the river, but ends at a “T” intersection on County Road 18.”



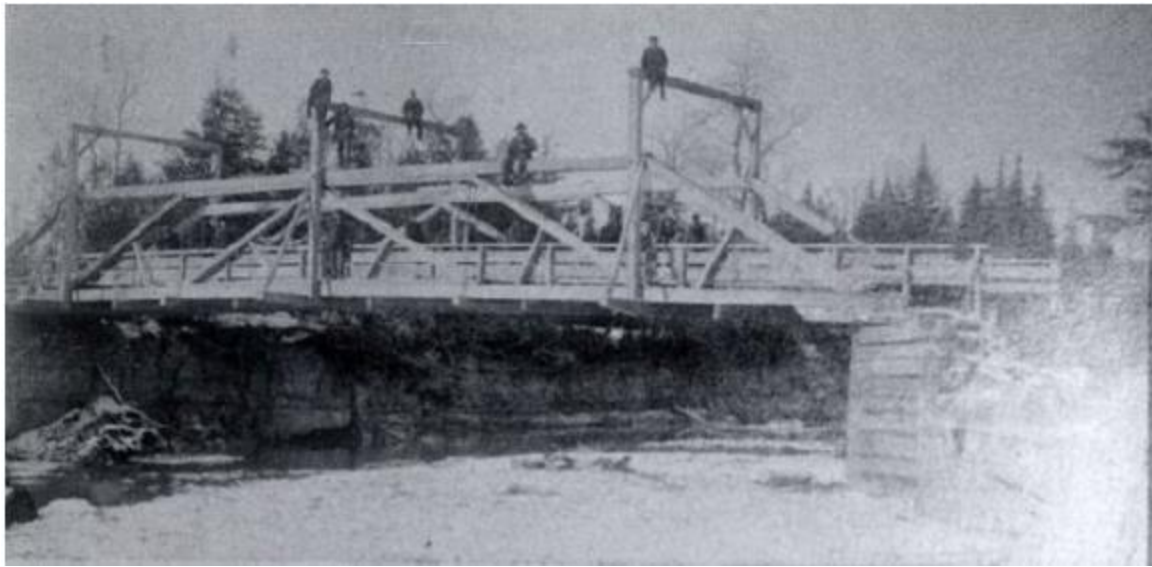


Figure 3: Richard Boyle and workers on last wooden bridge in Glen Lamond, 01 November 1887 (Wellington County Museum and Archives, 2022)⁵

2.2.3 Agriculture

As noted above, from 1880 until 1997, what is now the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve was part of a large property owned by members of the Black family, and, after 1942, by a company owned by John Black III called Blackburn Farms.

John “Jack” Black (1836-1892) was a Scottish-born butcher and farmer who emigrated to Canada c. 1856. He married Helen White Foote (1840-1925) in 1857. The origin of the Blackburn name stems from Blackburn Cottage, a stone residence built in 1843 by Helen’s parents James Foote and Catherine Fergusson (Griffith, 1970). John and Helen purchased Blackburn Cottage from Helen’s half-brother David Foote and began to raise a family. John engaged in livestock, the grain industry, and, in the early 1860s, in the cattle business (raising and shipping), connected to his recent partnership with Galt-based John Scott. Black also partook in several other business enterprises, including hogs, hay, and farm

⁵ The photograph description on the W.C.M.A. website names some of the men pictured therein, including Richard Boyle, Thomas Burns, Sam Bunt, John Glendenning, William Weatherhead, and Edward Boyle.

produce (Wellington County Museum and Archives, 2022). However, it remains unknown where these operations took place. Between 1860 and 1879, John and Helen replaced their cottage with a large limestone estate, also called Blackburn, which included a residence, a walled garden and stables, which remains extant at 129 Lamond Street in Fergus (Wellington County Museum and Archives, 2022).

The 1871 census (Library and Archives Canada, 1871) identifies John Black as the owner of 12 acres on Lot 6, Concession 1, likely the property surrounding Blackburn Cottage. The Pierpoint Park property was still owned by James Lamond Smith at this time. Black purchased Smith's property in 1880. The 1881 census (Library and Archives Canada, 1881) notes that Black was a Grain Dealer, and that his eldest son James was a farmer. A sketch map that may date to the 1880s shows a variety of agricultural features within the subject property, such as stables, fence lines, potential pig pen, a spring, etc. (Figure 7).

Although John Black died in 1892, the property remained in his family. The 1901 census (Library and Archives Canada, 1901) notes that his widow Helen and their daughter Florence resided in Garafraxa West. While the exact address is unknown, it is presumed to be at Blackburn because the 1906 map (Figure 8) shows Helen Black as the owner of 75 acres. Plus, the 1911 census (Library and Archives Canada, 1911) notes that Helen Black owned a property on St. Andrew Street, which is likely referring to the Blackburn property, where she resided with her son Fred. In 1919, Helen Black sold the property to her son John Black II. It is unknown where he resided or what his involvement was with the land and its uses. The 1921 census (Library and Archives Canada, 1921) lists Frederick, a bank manager, as the head of the household, still living with his mother at Blackburn.

John and Helen Black's grandson, John Black III (1902-1993), took ownership of the property following the death of his father in 1942. He had been involved in the livestock industry while residing with his parents in Toronto. He married Cady Winton in 1926. John Black III is the one who formalized the ownership of the property under the Blackburn Farms Limited name. It is unknown where he



and his family lived from the 1920s onward. However, he was residing in Toronto in the 1960s, suggesting that he rented out the property at this time, including the lands now occupied by the Fly Fishing Nature Reserve. It remains unknown what the land was being used for, or if it was left alone, during the twentieth century.

3.0 Description of Site and Surrounding Context

The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve, also locally known as Pierpoint Park, is a ten-acre property donated by Bob and Lynda Grant to the Township of Centre Wellington in 2010. Part of the condition of the donation was that the land had to be left in a natural state, and this has remained the case, as the site is well-known for passive recreation. Among the most popular current uses of the site, for both local residents and tourists alike, are activities such as hiking, dog-walking, fly fishing, and photography. Moreover, students from the nearby John Black Public School use the park for educational and recreational activities. A plaque of Richard Pierpoint is found near the parking area.

A field review of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve was undertaken on 17 May 2023, by Annie Veilleux and Lindsay Parsons of Archaeological Services Inc., to document the existing conditions of the subject property. The existing conditions of the subject property are described below and captured in Plate 1 to Plate 8.

The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is an “L” shaped natural park located on the north side of the Grand River. The site generally consists of a variety of vegetation, such as grasses and shrubs, a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees, unpaved walking trails, and the Grand River. A number of apple trees are also found throughout the site, likely remnants of previous agricultural uses on the site (Plate 1). The main entrance to the site is located on the south side of Anderson Street. The Nature Reserve is accessed through a gravel parking lot with minimal signage, and the plaque about Pierpoint’s life is located near the entrance to the park trails (Plate 2). The trail into the park crosses over a small



creek that extends from the Grand River and is crossed by a wooden pedestrian bridge (Plate 3).

The southern edge of the park follows the Grand River. The shoreline of the Grand River gently increases in elevation from east to west in the park. The eastern portion of the shoreline is sloped low and is lined with grass (Plate 4). The shoreline increases in elevation moving west. The middle section of the shoreline is lined with bedrock in a stair-like configuration leading down from the trails to the water (Plate 5). The most western portion of the shoreline features the highest point in elevation and is lined with a steep dirt slope and coniferous trees.

The main trail through the park generally follows the alignment of the Grand River. The trail appears to have been developed and maintained by foot traffic, and a section of the trail is deeply indented into the dirt, suggesting heavy usage (Plate 6). The trail weaves through grassed areas until it reaches the western portion of the park where it becomes lined with tall coniferous trees. A sign marks the edge of the park's property along the trail. A secondary trails splits from the main trail and wanders through a dense forested area before connecting back to the main trail (Plate 8).

The park is situated in a residential area of Fergus, and many residences are located just outside of the boundaries of the park. Residences also line the southern side of the Grand River. A large agricultural property sits to the east of the park.





Plate 1: An apple tree within the park, likely a remnant from past agricultural uses of the site (A.S.I., 2023).



Plate 2: The main entrance to the nature reserve from the parking lot. Note the plaque to the right of the entrance (A.S.I., 2023).



Plate 3: The trail crossing a small creek, looking south (A.S.I., 2023).



Plate 4: The low sloping shoreline of the Grand River in the eastern portion of the nature reserve, looking southeast (A.S.I., 2023).



Plate 5: The bedrock along the Grand River shoreline in a stair-like configuration, looking north from the river (A.S.I., 2023).



Plate 6: A portion of the trail through the nature reserve. This portion is deeply indented into the dirt (A.S.I., 2023).



Plate 7: The trail nearing the edge of the nature reserve as it passes through a forested area. Note the sign to the right of the trail indicating the end of the nature reserve property (A.S.I., 2023).



Plate 8: A forested portion of the nature reserve that the secondary trail passes through (A.S.I., 2023).

4.0 Heritage Evaluation

The evaluation of the property known as the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve using the criteria set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06 is presented in the following section. The *Ontario Heritage Act* requires that a property meet at least two criteria in order to be eligible for designation under Part IV.

The section also presents consideration of the community value and historical integrity of the property. Indicators of community value and historical integrity were assessed as part of the evaluation of the significant C.H.L.s identified through the Centre Wellington Cultural Heritage Study and Inventory.

4.1 Ontario Regulation 9/06

Evaluation of the subject property known as the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve using Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

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:
 - The property is not known to meet this criterion.
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:
 - The property is not known to meet this criterion.
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement:
 - The property is not known to meet this criterion.
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:
 - The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve has direct associations with Richard Pierpoint who was designated a National Historic



Person by Parks Canada in recognition of his life experience, hardships, and contributions as a Black Loyalist in Upper Canada. A former enslaved person, Richard Pierpoint was granted the east half of Lot 6, Concession 1 in 1822, including the lands which now forms the subject property, for his military service as part of the War of 1812, fulfilling his settlement duties despite his advanced age. 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, along the Garafraxa Road. Richard Pierpoint and his property in what is now Fergus 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.

- The subject property has direct associations with historical themes determined to be important to the development of the Township of Centre Wellington. The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is part of the long history of environmental conservation efforts in Centre Wellington and has developed into a site of commemoration, recreation, stewardship, and community development.
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:
- As part of Richard Pierpoint's land grant, the property has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of early Black land ownership, settlement, and displacement in Upper Canada in the late eighteenth and early to mid-nineteenth century.
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:
- The property is not known to meet this criterion.



7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area:
 - The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of the upper section of the Grand River in the Township of Centre Wellington as a popular fly-fishing destination, providing free access to fly fishers and others to appreciate the natural heritage of the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River.
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings:
 - The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is physically, visually, and historically linked to the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River.
 - As part of Richard Pierpoint's land grant, the subject property is historically linked to one of the travel routes used by early Black individuals and families in their journey north to the Queen's Bush in the 1820s and 1830s.
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark:
 - The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is considered a landmark for different reasons. It is a well-known public access point for fly fishers along this stretch of the Grand River, a popular fly-fishing destination. The nature reserve, which is also locally referred to as Pierpoint Park, is also highlighted as stop on the "Wellington County: Black Heritage Reclaimed Driving Map" as a place of significance to the historical Black community in Wellington County.

4.2 Community Value and Historical Integrity

As part of Richard Pierpoint's land grant, this area is significant to the community as evidenced by the number of people who expressed interest and/or who participated in the public workshop held as part of the Pierpoint Settlement Research Project. The property is significant to the Black community of Centre Wellington, Wellington County, and beyond. Locally known as Pierpoint Park, the nature reserve is used to tell the story of Richard Pierpoint



and early Black settlement in the area. It was named after Richard Pierpoint and has developed into a site of commemoration, recreation, stewardship, and community development. The nature reserve is valued as a passive park, open to all, accommodating fly fishing access, other passive recreational activities, and the appreciation of a natural space along the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River.

5.0 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Description of Heritage Attributes

The evaluation above confirmed that the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve meets at least two of the nine O.Reg. 9/06 criteria and can be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The following sections consist of a statement of cultural heritage value or interest and description of heritage attributes which can be integrated into a designation by-law for the property.

5.1 Description of Property

The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is part of the northeast half Lot 6, Concession 1, West Garafraxa, being Part 6, Reference Plan 61R11285, Centre Wellington.

The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is located at 255 Lamond Street, Fergus, in the Township of Centre Wellington, Ontario.

The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is an L-shaped park owned by the Township of Centre Wellington. It is located at the southwest corner of Anderson Street South and Lamond Street, on the north side of the Grand River. The passive park includes a small parking area and informal walking trails through brush and wooded areas, providing access to the Grand River. The park also includes a small creek



5.2 Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value or interest of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve lies in its historical/associative values and contextual values.

The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve is part of the east half of Lot 6, Concession 1, which was granted to Richard Pierpoint, a former enslaved person, in 1822 for his military service as part of the War of 1812. Through oral history, 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, along the Garafraxa Road. Richard Pierpoint, who is a National Historic Person, and his property in what is now Fergus 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. The Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve has the potential to further yield information that contributes to a better understanding of this story.

More recently, the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve has become a site of commemoration, recreation, stewardship, and community development, becoming part of the long history of environmental conservation efforts in Centre Wellington. The nature reserve is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of the upper section of the Grand River in the Township of Centre Wellington as a popular fly-fishing destination, providing free public access to fly fishers and others to appreciate the natural heritage of the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River. The naturalized and passive state of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve also has scenic qualities and supports a contemplative setting along the Grand River.

5.3 Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve that express its value as an important link to Richard Pierpoint and its history as a resting place for Black individual and families travelling north along Garafraxa Road to the Queen's Bush include:



- Its location within the southeast quadrant of Richard Pierpoint's land grant which consisted of the east half of Lot 6, Concession 1, West Garafraxa, in proximity to historical Garafraxa Road;
- Place naming and acts of commemoration, expressing an understanding and celebration of its association with Richard Pierpoint.
- The naturalized and passive state of the park which supports a contemplative setting along the Grand River.
- Its potential to yield additional information, including potential undiscovered archaeological resources or features, that would contribute to a better understanding of this history.

Key attributes of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve that express its value as an important link in the long history of environmental conservation in the Township of Centre Wellington and its role in defining and maintaining the character of the upper section of the Grand River in the Township include:

- It's location along the upper section of the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River, which is a popular fly-fishing destination;
- The naturalized state of the park, including the creek and the variety of vegetation including grasses and shrubs, and a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees of various ages, including apple trees;
- Its public access point at the northeast corner of the park;
- The walking trails which meander through the reserve and provide access to the Grand River.



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Appendix A: Historical Mapping of the Pierpoint Fly Fishing Nature Reserve

The general maps of Wellington County which showed West Garafraxa Township generally date from the second half of the nineteenth century and from the first decades of the twentieth century. It should be noted, however, that not all features of interest were mapped systematically in the Ontario series of historical atlases. For instance, they were often financed by subscription limiting the level of detail provided on the maps. Moreover, not every feature of interest would have been within the scope of the atlases. The use of historical map sources to reconstruct or predict the location of former features within the modern landscape generally begins by using common reference points between the various sources. The historical maps are geo-referenced to provide the most accurate determination of the location of any property on a modern map. The results of this exercise can often be imprecise or even contradictory, as there are numerous potential sources of error inherent in such a process, including differences of scale and resolution, and distortions introduced by reproduction of the sources.



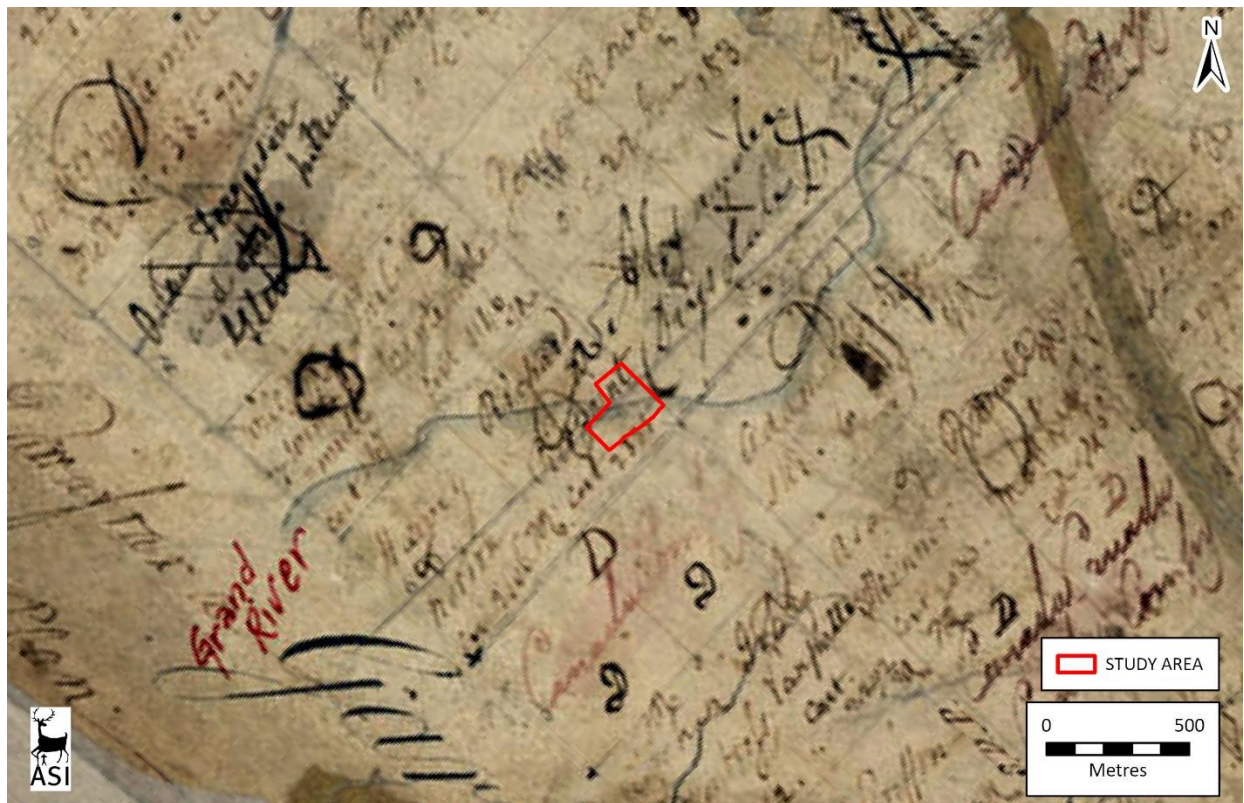


Figure 4: West Garafraxa Patent Plan (Anon, 1821).



Figure 5: 1861 Tremaine's Map of Wellington County (Leslie et al., 1861).



Figure 6: 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas (Walker and Miles, 1877).

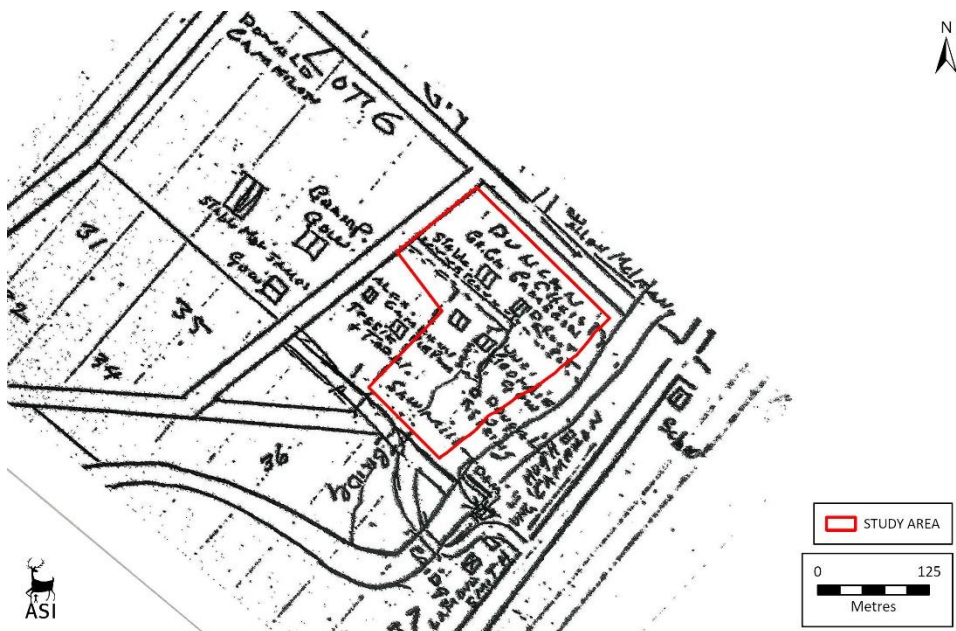


Figure 7: An undated sketch of east half of Lot 6, Concession 1, thought to have been drawn by Hugh or Alex Cameron. Based on the illustrated features, the sketch may have been created in the 1880s (the dam was destroyed in 1888).

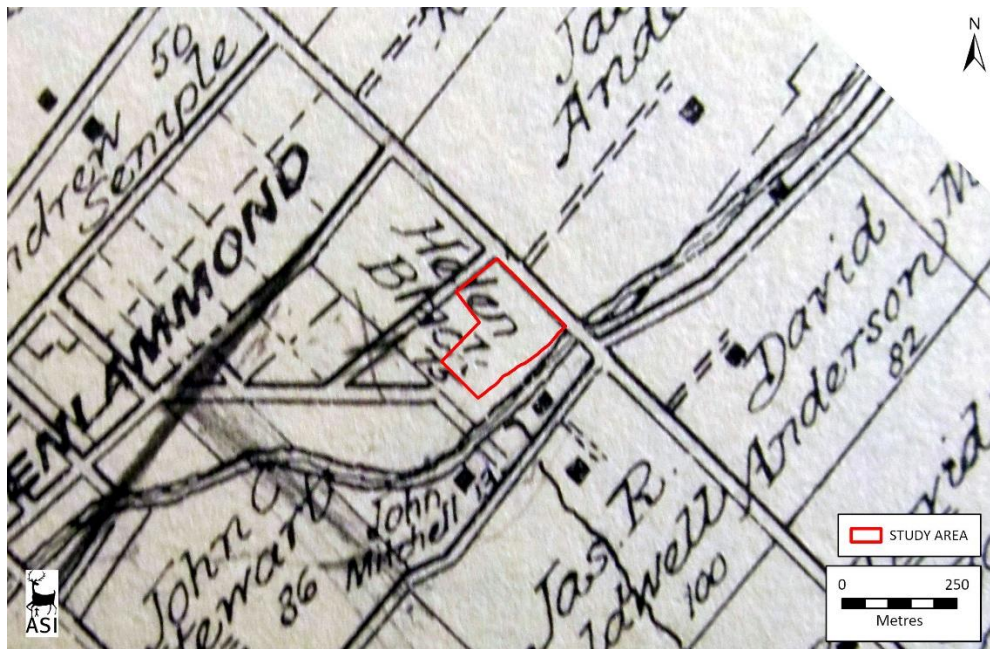


Figure 8: 1906 Wellington County Atlas map of West Garafraxa Township (Historical Atlas Publishing Co., 1906).

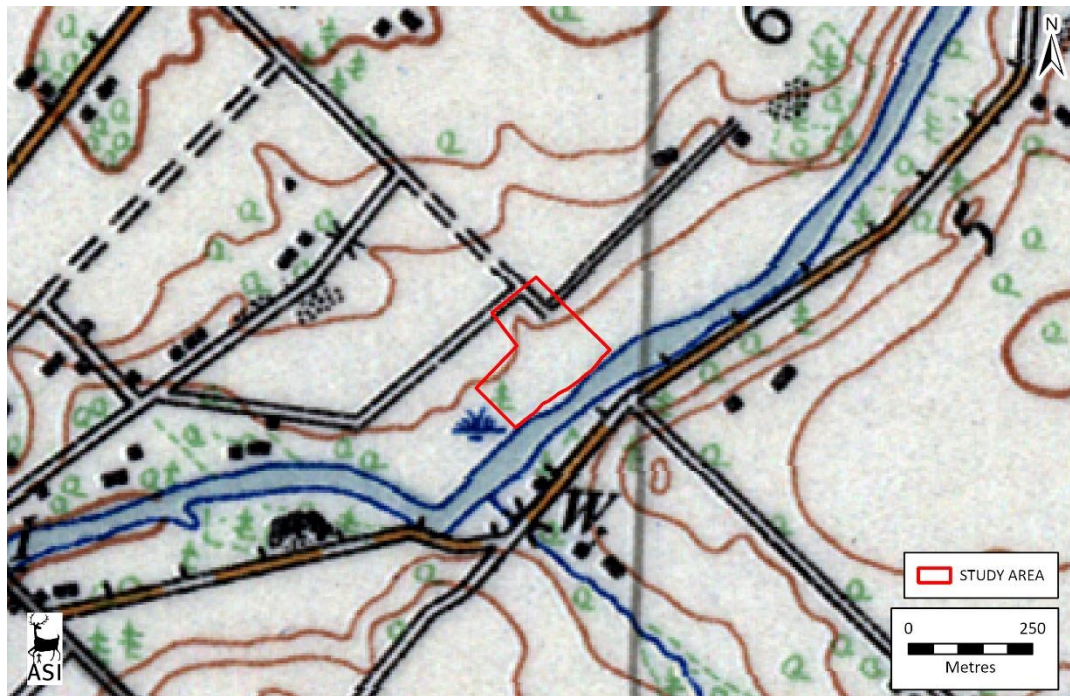


Figure 9: 1935 Topographic map, Guelph Sheet (Department of National Defence, 1935).



Figure 10: 1954 aerial photograph (University of Toronto Map and Data Library & Hunting Survey Corporation Limited, 1954).

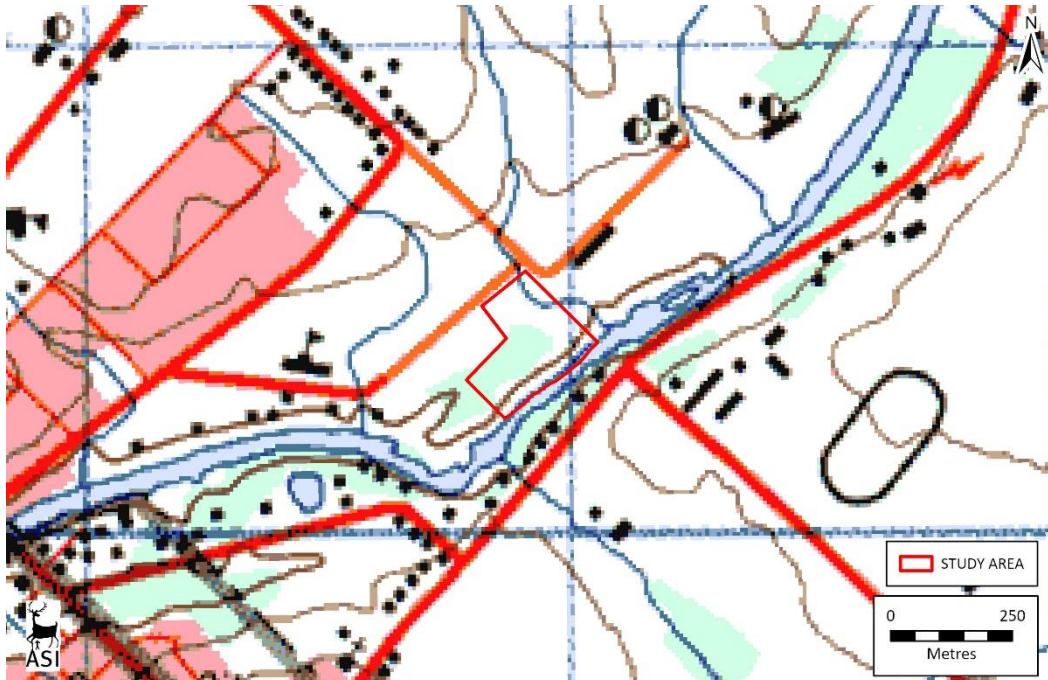


Figure 11: 1980 National Topographic Survey (N.T.S.) Map, Guelph Sheet (Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, 1980).



Figure 12: Pierpoint's land grant overlaid on current lot fabric.

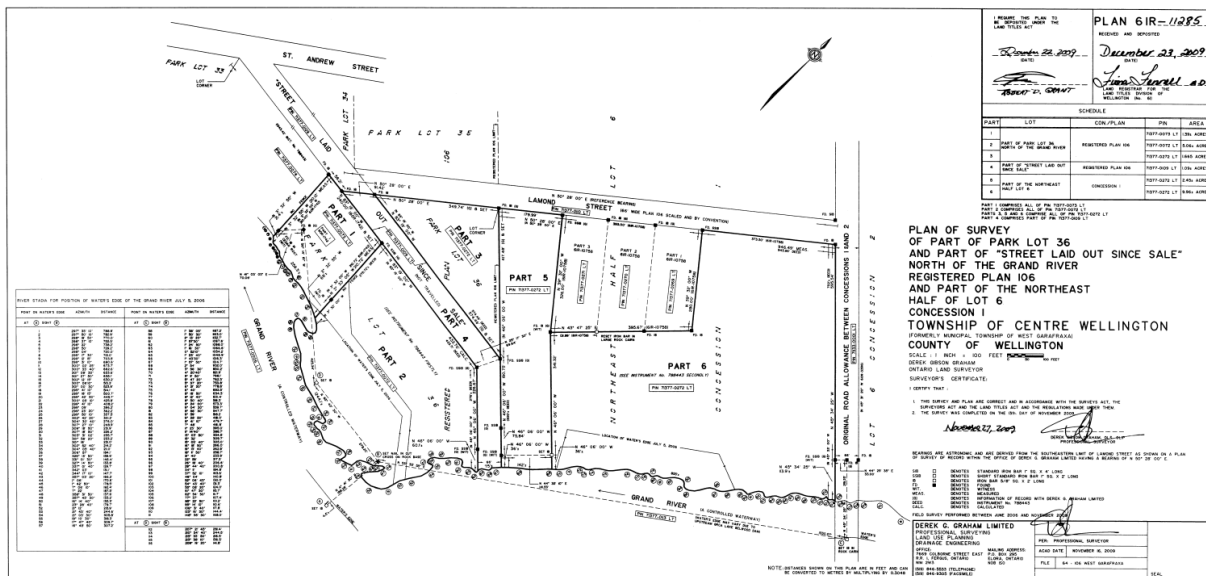


Figure 13: Plan 61R-11285 (OnLand)