

AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES





BRUBACHER HOUSE

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| BOUNDARIES | Forming an “L” shape landscape on the west side of the North Campus of the University of Waterloo, bound by Frank Tompa Drive in the north, Columbia Lake in the west, the laneway leading from Columbia Street West to the Brubacher Farmhouse in the east, and wrapping around the edge of a baseball field to the south. |
| RECOGNITION | 1 property designated (Part IV) under the Ontario Heritage Act. |
| HISTORIC THEME(S) | Mennonite Settlement, Urban Development, Government and Education. |
| TYPE OF LANDSCAPE | Agricultural. |
| DESCRIPTION | The landscape contains the Brubacher House Museum (former farmstead), a former silo and the Trans Canada Trail. |

CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE or INTEREST

The Brubacher House landscape is a well-preserved, early example of a Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmstead. Built in 1850 out of native fieldstone, the Georgian style farmhouse is set into the side of a hill, which was a construction method used by early Pennsylvania German settlers. Careful conservation and restoration of the exterior elements highlight the house's original materials, and craftsmanship. The house's elevated position gives the landscape significant aesthetic value by providing scenic views from the trails and fields to the farmhouse, and from the farmhouse to the surrounding fields and nearby Columbia Lake. Supporting features in the landscape include a silo and pastoral setting that is reminiscent of the site's original agricultural fields.

The Brubacher House is directly associated with the Pennsylvania German settler, John E. Brubacher. Brubacher was the grandson of Susannah Erb Brubacher, a German Company shareholder, and son of John Brubacher, who settled in Waterloo Township in 1818. John and his wife Magdalena raised 14 children and farmed the landscape until 1965 when the property was purchased as part of the University of Waterloo. The house was restored to reflect a Pennsylvania German Mennonite home of the 1850-1890 period, including authentic period furnishings, and now functions as a museum that yields information about the cultural heritage of Pennsylvania German Mennonites.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | DESIGN VALUE | rare, unique, representative or early example of a landscape (style, trend, movement, school of theory, type, expression, material use or construction method, settlement pattern, time period or lifeway). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DESIGN VALUE | displays a high degree of design or aesthetic appeal. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DESIGN VALUE | demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HISTORICAL VALUE | direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institute significant to a community. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HISTORICAL VALUE | yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture. |

- HISTORICAL VALUE demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist significant to a community.
- CONTEXTUAL VALUE is important in defining, maintaining or supporting character of an area.
- CONTEXTUAL VALUE physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to surroundings.
- CONTEXTUAL VALUE a landmark.



HISTORICAL INTEGRITY

Built heritage elements in the landscape that have survived largely in their historic form include the Brubacher House and silo. The original Brubacher House was gutted by fire in 1968, however, it was restored under the direction of a master Mennonite craftsman, Simeon Martin. The Brubacher House saw a continuity in agricultural land use from 1850 to 1965 and has been operating as a museum since 1979.

- LAND USE landscape has had continuity in use and/or a compatible use (agricultural, commercial, residential or institutional).
- OWNERSHIP continuity of ownership or occupation of the site, dating to a historic period.
- BUILT ELEMENTS buildings and other built elements (fences, walls, paths, bridges, corrals, pens, garden features, lighting, sidewalks, fountains, piers, etc.) have survived in their historic form and in relatively sound condition.
- VEGETATIVE ELEMENTS plantings (hedgerows, windrows, gardens, shade trees, etc.) are still evident and their traditional relationship to buildings, lanes, roadways, walks and fields are still discernible.
- CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS relationships between historic buildings and other built and designed elements (yards, fields, paths, parks, gardens, etc.) are intact.
- NATURAL FEATURES prominent natural features (cliff, stream, vegetation, etc.) remain intact.
- NATURAL RELATIONSHIPS historical relationships to prominent natural features still exist for the site as a whole and within the site.
- VIEWS existing views of and within the site can be closely compared to the same view in the past (certain views may have been captured in historic photos).

**RUINS**

ruins and overgrown elements still convey a clear message about the site's history.

**DESIGNED
LANDSCAPES**

changes to a designed landscape can be corrected so that the property retains integrity versus being irrevocable.



COMMUNITY VALUE

As a museum, Brubacher House is used to tell the story of the early Pennsylvania German culture and was named to commemorate John E. Brubacher, the farmer who once owned the property.

The Brubacher House is a landmark on the North Campus of the University of Waterloo. The community demonstrates a high degree of pride and stewardship in the landscape as evidenced by the Part IV designation of the Brubacher House under the Ontario Heritage Act.

When asked to prioritize the importance of this landscape in the City's survey for this project, 57% of respondents noted it as "very important" or "somewhat important." During community consultation undertaken to complete this study it was widely suggested that the west side of the UW North Campus be explored as a landscape to include elements such as the Brubacher House Museum, playing fields and Columbia Lake.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | COMMUNITY IDENTITY | landscape contributes to the community's identity and is used to tell the story of the community. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LANDMARK | area is widely recognized as a landmark. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PRIDE AND STEWARDSHIP | community demonstrates a high degree of pride and stewardship in the area (heritage designations, plaques, voluntary upkeep). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | COMMEMORATION | area or elements within the area are named to celebrate or commemorate someone or something. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PUBLIC SPACE | area is a site of frequent or longstanding public gatherings or events. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CULTURAL TRADITIONS | people use the area to express their cultural traditions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | QUALITY OF LIFE | aspects of the landscape are valued for their impact on day to day living. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | LOCAL HISTORY | location is written about in local histories or spoken about through local stories or lore. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | VISUAL DEPICTION | location is widely photographed or depicted in works of art (visual, literary, etc.). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GENIUS LOCI | people refer to the area as having a distinctive atmosphere or pervading 'sense of place'. |

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| — | <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMUNITY IMAGE | area is identified with the community image (e.g. appearing in promotions or marketing material). |
| — | <input type="checkbox"/> | TOURISM | area is promoted as a tourist destination. |
| — | <input type="checkbox"/> | PLANNING | area has been identified through another planning process as being unique. |

PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES INCLUDE:

- Brubacher House farmstead;
 - o Farmhouse constructed in the Pennsylvania German Mennonite architectural style (1850);
 - o Silo;
- Trans Canada Trail; and
- Mature vegetation.



ELAM MARTIN FARMSTEAD

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| BOUNDARIES | Located on Woolwich Street North in Research In Motion (RIM) Park, the Elam Martin Farmstead (7.5 ha) is situated east of University Avenue East and south of Park Road, adjacent to the Grey Silo Golf Course. |
| RECOGNITION | Property Designated (Part IV) under the Ontario Heritage Act |
| HISTORIC THEME(S) | Agriculture, Mennonite Settlement, Lifeways. |
| TYPE OF LANDSCAPE | Agricultural. |
| DESCRIPTION | The Elam Martin Farmstead, located within RIM Park, is a sixth generation Mennonite farmstead that was founded in 1820. The property contains 14 structures and several landscape elements, including orchards (fruit trees), a treed farm lane, kitchen garden and fence line on a 7.5 ha heritage landscape. The buildings and layout that make up the farm complex demonstrate the Mennonite Old Order way of life as its built and natural elements were constructed to service the needs of a large, immigrant family. |

The Elam Martin Farmstead is historically linked to its surroundings due to its direct association with early Mennonite immigrants to Waterloo Region. The property has been occupied by the David Martin Mennonite family and descendants since 1820.

The original structures on the property were constructed by David Martin who emigrated from Pennsylvania. When Martin arrived in 1820, a growing number of Mennonites were looking for inexpensive land in Canada. The property originally consisted of 181 ha on Lot 65 of the German Company Tract and is representative of the influence of Mennonite immigration on the landscape in Waterloo Region through the clearing of land for agriculture farmsteads and the subsequent establishment of industry. David, his wife Marie, and their 12 children settled on the site and constructed a log house and a barn near a natural spring of water that continues to flow past the farmstead today.

The landscape and its built and natural components are representative of early Canadian rural settlements and the agricultural and Mennonite heritage of Waterloo Region. The main house, which replaced the earlier log house, was constructed in 1856 in the Mennonite Georgian style, featuring two-storeys, a gable-roof, yellow-brick façade and a unique moulded brick cornice. The Martin house features a southern exposure, typical of older Mennonite buildings in the area, and a kitchen with access to the gardens, smoke house, schnitz house and wood shed. A Doddy House was constructed adjacent to the main house in the 1870s, which is distinctive of Mennonite homesteads and often incorporated in many Waterloo region farms. The bank barn was built into the side of a hill or bank and represents a characteristic Mennonite construction style that helped to keep stable space in the lower level warm in the winter and provided access to the upper and lower floors from ground level.

The layout of the landscape serviced the needs of a large, immigrant family and contributes to an understanding of the Mennonite Old Order way of life. Farmstead sites like this one were commonly located near fresh spring water, which served life on the farm and cooled the spring house. The cluster of buildings that comprise the farmstead, many of which held a practical subsistence agricultural function, are unique in that they demonstrate the types of structures built before the common availability of modern conveniences, such as electricity, plumbing and fuel powered vehicles. For example, the wagon shed was used for storage to house buggies, harnesses and sleighs for horse assisted work and transportation, the corn crib was used to dry corn, the spring house cooled milk and other perishables, and the wash house was used for laundry.

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The Martins owned this self-sufficient, sixth-generation Mennonite farm for 160 years. Although the land was subdivided over time, much of the farm landscape and its built elements remain in their original form, location and orientation. Fourteen structures and several landscape elements, including orchards (fruit trees), the treed farm lane, kitchen garden and fence line, comprise the landscape. The kitchen garden continues to produce, vegetables, herbs and ornamental flowers and the landscape contains an apple orchard and fruit orchard with plum and pear trees. The landscape's layout continues to reflect its historic function, which has serviced the needs of the Mennonite Martin family for almost 200 years.

Although the City of Waterloo owns the property, members of the Elam Martin family still live on the farmstead today.

- LAND USE** landscape has had continuity in use and/or a compatible use (agricultural, commercial, residential or institutional).
- OWNERSHIP** continuity of ownership or occupation of the site, dating to a historic period.
- BUILT ELEMENTS** buildings and other built elements (fences, walls, paths, bridges, corrals, pens, garden features, lighting, sidewalks, fountains, piers, etc.) have survived in their historic form and in relatively sound condition.
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**RUINS**

ruins and overgrown elements still convey a clear message about the site's history.

**DESIGNED
LANDSCAPES**

changes to a designed landscape can be corrected so that the property retains integrity versus being irrevocable.



COMMUNITY VALUE

The landscape is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The 14 structures on the property are listed as heritage attributes under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, including: the spring house, drying house, smoke house, 1856 farmhouse, 1870 doddy house, 1905 tool and woodshed, 1900 drive shed, 1860 bank barn, 1965 corn crib, 1900 drive shed, butchering shed, 1960s free-standing silo, 1920s old silo, and the foundation of an old silo. The city celebrates its cultural heritage value through an online exhibit and the orientation of the Walter Bean trail through the site. The Elam Martin Farmstead is included as a point of interest in the Waterloo Region Historic Countryside Tours brochure.

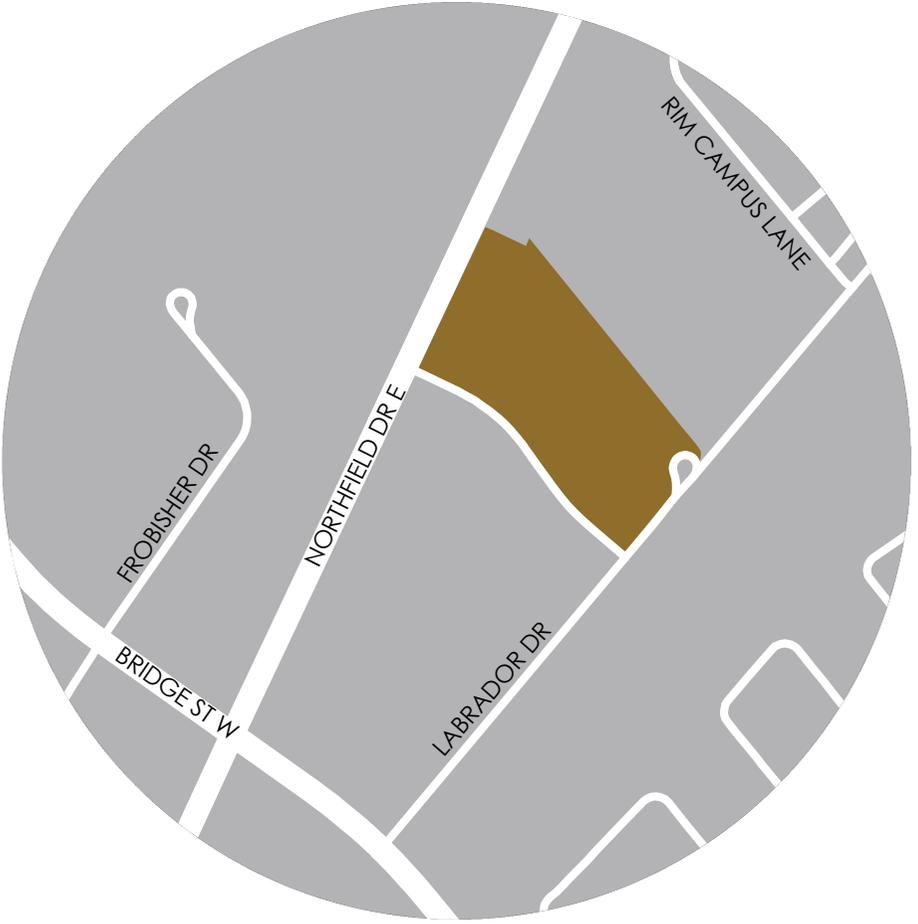
Mennonite culture represents an important aspect of the City of Waterloo's identity and the farmstead conveys information about the origins of this identity. The City of Waterloo purchased the property in 1999 and continues to explore options for a long-term plan to use and conserve this example of a traditional Mennonite farming landscape. The farmstead's protection and use by the public, primarily through the RIM Park and Walter Bean trails, contributes to the community's appreciation of the landscape. When asked to prioritize the importance of this landscape in the City's survey, 83% of respondents noted it as "very important" or "somewhat important."

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PRIDE AND STEWARDSHIP | community demonstrates a high degree of pride and stewardship in the area (heritage designations, plaques, voluntary upkeep). |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | CULTURAL TRADITIONS | people use the area to express their cultural traditions. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | QUALITY OF LIFE | aspects of the landscape are valued for their impact on day to day living. |

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | LOCAL HISTORY | location is written about in local histories or spoken about through local stories or lore. |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | TOURISM | area is promoted as a tourist destination. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PLANNING | area has been identified through another planning process as being unique. |

PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES INCLUDE:

- Collection of buildings dispersed upon the landscape;
- Southward orientation of the main structures;
- Mennonite Georgian style two-storey house and attached doddy house;
- Ca. 1920 silo, ca. 1960 silo and cement foundation of an old silo;
- Corn crib;
- Tool/woodshed;
- Bank barn;
- Pump house;
- Spring house and channel leading to the creek; and
- Other structures including the schnitz house, smoke house/ outhouse, and drive shed/butchering shed.



FORMER SNYDER FARMSTEAD

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| BOUNDARIES | 305 Northfield Drive East. |
| RECOGNITION | A 1999 Purchase & Sale Agreement between the City and owner prohibits demolition of any of the heritage structures on the property and states that the purchaser shall restore, preserve, and enhance existing structures on the property. |
| HISTORIC THEME(S) | Agriculture, Urban Development. |
| TYPE OF LANDSCAPE | Agricultural. |
| DESCRIPTION | The former Snyder Farmstead is located at 305 Northfield Drive East at the north edge of the City of Waterloo. The farmstead is associated with the Mennonite community in Waterloo, including the Pennsylvania German Mennonite settlers who were the founding and dominant cultural group in the city for many years. Specifically, the landscape is associated with the Snyder (formerly Schneider) family, one of the earliest Pennsylvania German Mennonite families to settle in Waterloo County. The property contains a Georgian Mennonite farmhouse constructed in 1877–78, a rare three-storey bank barn constructed in the 1880s, a drive shed and shop, along with other smaller outbuildings and three contemporary structures added to the site as a result of the current commercial function of the property, The Timeless Materials Company. |

CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE or INTEREST

The former Snyder Farmstead is associated with one of the earliest Pennsylvania German Mennonites to settle in Waterloo County, Christian Schneider (spelling changed to Snyder in the 1860s), who immigrated from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in the early 1800s. Snyder and his family made significant contributions to the development of early Waterloo Township (now the Cities of Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge). His brother Joseph became known as the “Father” of Berlin (later Kitchener) as his sawmill on Schneider Creek was instrumental in the development of the area and is today preserved as the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum. Christian’s son Jacob C. purchased Abraham Erb’s grist and sawmills and together with his son Elias enlarged the business considerably, facilitating the growth of the area and ultimate incorporation of Waterloo as a village in 1857. GCT Lot 63, a large tract containing the farmstead in northeast Waterloo, was occupied almost exclusively by descendants of Joseph Junior until 1950.

The Snyder farmhouse was constructed in 1877–78 and is a representative example of a Georgian Mennonite farmhouse. The two-storey structure, built to an L-shaped plan of red brick, features a bell tower on the centre of its side gable roof. A three-storey bank barn constructed in the 1880s is also located on the property and is the “only remaining local example of this unusual Pennsylvania style of barn construction” due to its three-storey construction (Little 2002:28). The construction of barns into the side of a hill or bank was a characteristic Mennonite building style and helped to keep stable space in the lower level warmer in the winter.

Although the Snyder farmstead is now surrounded by urban development, the remnant landscape, including the farmhouse, bank barn, drive shed, shop and row of mature coniferous trees, provide a representative and early example of a Mennonite farmstead.



DESIGN
VALUE

rare, unique, representative or early example of a landscape (style, trend, movement, school of theory, type, expression, material use or construction method, settlement pattern, time period or lifeway).



DESIGN
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displays a high degree of design or aesthetic appeal.



DESIGN
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demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

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As was common with early Mennonite families, the Snyder farmstead originally included a log house that was later upgraded to the existing brick farmhouse in the 1870s. The log house and associated farm buildings were located on the west side of Lot 63. However, since 1877-78, the Snyder farmstead, including the farmhouse, barn and shop has been located in the current location. The relationship between the farmhouse, barn and shop is intact, however, the original driveshed has been removed and rebuilt attached to the rear of the farmhouse. The current owner has restored and preserved a number of the buildings to accommodate their business. Three new structures were also added to the landscape to house facilities for the current commercial function of the site, altering the historic agricultural character of the landscape.

The unique three-storey bank barn, an important built element in the landscape, has been well-preserved but altered through the addition of contemporary windows and modified entryways to accommodate its current commercial function. The farmhouse requires upkeep to ensure that its features are conserved.

Little vegetation remains on the landscape due to its previous agricultural function, however a row of mature coniferous trees line the south side of the driveway and were likely intentionally planted by past Snyder family residents to act as a wind break.

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- RUINS ruins and overgrown elements still convey a clear message about the site's history.
- DESIGNED LANDSCAPES changes to a designed landscape can be corrected so that the property retains integrity versus being irrevocable.



COMMUNITY VALUE

The landscape has a direct connection with Waterloo's early Mennonite origins and associations. As one of three remaining Mennonite farmsteads in the City of Waterloo (the others being the Elam Martin Farmstead and Brubacher House), the landscape tells the story of the region's early settlement and agricultural roots.

The potential heritage value of the site was recognized by the City in 1999 and conserved through the establishment of conditions in the purchase and sale agreement.

The site has been adaptively reused by The Timeless Materials Company as an architectural salvage facility and restaurant/café and provides a unique shopping and tourism destination for the local community as well as visitors to the region.

Through the consultation process undertaken to complete this study, some community support was voiced for the inclusion of the former Snyder Farmstead landscape due to its representation of one of the last remaining Mennonite farmsteads in the City of Waterloo.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | TOURISM | area is promoted as a tourist destination. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PLANNING | area has been identified through another planning process as being unique. |

PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES INCLUDE:

- Collection of buildings dispersed upon the landscape and set back from Northfield Drive East;
- Placement and orientation of the complex of buildings associated with the Snyder farmstead;
- Two-storey red brick Georgian Mennonite farmhouse constructed in an L-shaped plan in 1877-78, including the bell tower;
- Three-storey bank barn constructed in the 1880s;
- Silo;
- Drive shed;
- Shop; and
- Row of mature coniferous trees that line the south side of the driveway.