

To: Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee
Meeting Date: 11/20/2025
Report Title: 745 Chilligo Road - Recommendation to Designate
Report Author: Jeremy Parsons, Senior Planner - Heritage
Department: Planning and Growth
Division: Policy Planning
Report No.: 25-049 (MHAC)
File No.: R01.01.187
Ward: Ward 1

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report 25-049 (MHAC) Recommendation to Designate be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) supports the recommendation to designate the property municipally known as 745 Chilligo Road under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Purpose

This report has been prepared to provide a recommendation to the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) in support of the designation of the property municipally known as 745 Chilligo Road under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Key Findings

- The property at 745 Chilligo Road contains a two-and-a-half storey brick farmhouse built in the mid-19th century in the Mennonite Georgian architectural style. The property is surrounded by mature trees and farm fields in a rural landscape.
- The property is currently listed on the Heritage Register but does not have any other status under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- The property is associated with several pioneering families in Waterloo Region, including the Clemens, Snyders, Shantz, and Strohms. The property's predominant association is with John Strohm Clemens, a local farmer and miller who ran Fisher's Mills in the mid-to-late 19th century.

- Staff have determined that the property contains sufficient cultural heritage value to merit designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, satisfying several criteria under *Ontario Regulation 9/06* (as amended by *O. Reg 569/22*).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City does provide the property owner with a date-stamped, cast heritage plaque at a cost of approximately \$500. The City also pays to register the bylaw on title to the property, which is under \$100.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Action; or

Core Service

Objective(s): Not Applicable

Strategic Action: Not Applicable

Program: Community Development

Core Service: Heritage Conservation

BACKGROUND:

The City of Cambridge is undergoing a comprehensive review of its Heritage Register as a response to Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and Bill 200, the *Homeowner Protection Act, 2024*. WSP Canada was retained by the City of Cambridge to complete a review of all non-designated properties listed on the Heritage Register. The objective of the Heritage Register Review process is to survey and assess at a high level, all listed properties, and to identify significant heritage properties that are candidates for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, temporary retention, or removal from the Register. The property known municipally as 745 Chilligo Road was evaluated by WSP, classified as a “Significant Built Heritage Resource” and recommended for designation (see **Attachment 3**).

The property at 745 Chilligo Road is located on the west side of Chilligo Road, northwest of the community of Hespeler (see **Attachment 1** – Location Map). The property is approximately 63 acres (26 hectares) in size and contains farm fields in active agricultural production, woodland, sections of the Chilligo-Ellis Creek, and a residential lot with a 19th century farmhouse (see Figure 1 below). The residential lot with the farmhouse (Clemens House) contains several mature deciduous trees, a garden bed along the perimeter of the home, and a gravel driveway south of the house.

The property is zoned A1 (Agricultural) and OS1 (Open Space). The open space areas cover the wooded land and the portion of the Chilligo-Ellis Creek that runs through the property. The Official Plan land use designations for the property include Prime Agricultural and Natural Open Space System. The property is not currently subject to any active applications.

The property is currently listed on the City's Heritage Register as a non-designated property of cultural heritage value or interest. The Register incorrectly identifies the property as dating to "ca. 1870", using the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's (MPAC) estimated historical dates. The Register describes the house as "Mennonite Georgian house, 2-storey, red brick, symmetrical, 2-storey verandah". The property was featured in the local Landmarks series, printed in the local newspaper. The property is also adjacent to other listed properties in 2660 Beaverdale Road (Snyder Potato Farm) and 355 Chilligo Road (Bretz House).

Photographs of the subject property, taken by Heritage Staff on August 25, 2025, and taken from Google Street View, can be found in Appendix B (Figures 2-8). Historical and archival documentation of the subject property can be found in **Attachment 4** (Figures 9-22).

ANALYSIS

Historical Context

The property at 745 Chilligo Road was settled by Abram Clemens (1803-1872) and Elizabeth (Strohm) Clemens (1802-1864) in the early 19th century. According to 19th century historian Ezra Eby, the Clemens family were among the earliest Mennonites who came Pennsylvania from Germany. In his 1895 history *A Biographical History of Early Settlers and their Descendants in Waterloo Township*, Eby notes that Abram C. Clemens was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania and, when six years of age, his parents moved to Canada and settled in "Waterloo County, near Hespeler where young Abram was raised." (Eby, 95). Clemens married Elizabeth in 1824 and "after their marriage they moved on the farm now in possession of their son, John, who resides near Hespeler." (Eby, 95).

Abram and Elizabeth had five children, one of whom was John Strohm Clemens (1833-1918). John was the third son of Abram and Elizabeth on June 1, 1833. He married Rebecca (Shantz) Snyder in 1854 and, according to Eby, "after their marriage they moved on his [John's] father's old place where they still reside." (Eby, 96). This indicates that the extant house at 745 Chilligo Road was built pre-1854 and likely after 1824. Given its architectural style and use of fired brick masonry, it is estimated that the dwelling was built ca. 1840-1854.

John and Rebecca Clemens had fourteen children, ten of whom survived into adulthood. As were many of their neighbours, John and Rebecca were primarily farmers. In 1861, according to the 1881 Census of Canada, the farm at 745 Chilligo Road had livestock, orchards, land under cultivation, pasture, and areas undeveloped or “under wood or wild”. The Clemens family grew wheat, barley, peas, oats, potatoes, turnips, and hay. According to the 1881 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Waterloo*, by this time their lot size was 255 acres and they had 185 acres under active farm use. According to Elizabeth Bloomfield’s *Waterloo Township Through Two Centuries*, John S. Clemens was a leading property holder in Waterloo Township. By the end of the 19th century, Clemens was farming a total of 350 acres across lots 12 and 13 [in Concession 2], totalling \$8,400 (Bloomfield, 411).

The 1881 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Waterloo* also notes that John was a “farmer, merchant, [and] miller.” Clemens was involved with Jacob Fisher’s nearby flour mill (developed in 1843), the largest operation in Waterloo Township. According to Bloomfield, Thomas Stewart owned the mill from 1854 to 1864 when he sold it to Aaron and John S. Clemens, who built up the dam at the time.

By 1871, the mill employed four men and a 60-horse-power water wheel to produce flour valued at \$72,000. The property, including 170 acres, was valued for assessment at \$14,750. The Clemens brothers installed roller milling equipment in the 3 ½ storey mill and also operated a stave and heading mill so that they could make their own barrels. The brothers dissolved their partnership in 1882, the mill continued by Aaron until his death in 1888...[I]n 1890, the mill building and equipment were all dismantled and shipped to Birtle, Manitoba by David Clemens. The old site was bought by Joseph S. Shantz and Absalom B. Snyder; a smaller feed mill was built on the old foundations and worked in conjunction with a sawmill. In 1892, Shantz took over the whole business and later added cider and apple butter production. (191)

The remnants of the mill building are still extant, having been incorporated into a house at 566 Fisher Mills Road. A plaque on the history of the mill is located nearby at the bridge crossing Chilligo-Ellis Creek on Schiedel Pond. In *The History of Fisher Mills and Beavertdale, Ontario*, Paul Langan reiterates the historical account put forward by Bloomfield and describes the dismantling of the three-and-a-half storey mill and relocation of its equipment to Manitoba.

In 1911, Rebecca Snyder Clemens passed away and in 1918 John Clemens passed away. Both are buried at the nearby Wanner Mennonite Cemetery. The property remained, for years, in the Clemens-Snyder family. It was owned, as late as the early 2000s, by John Wilfred Snyder (1925-2012) and Dr. Iva Ruth (Sherk) Taves (1928-2011). Snyder was a pastor and leader at Rockway Mennonite Church from 1967-1990.

Taves was a local doctor and the first female president of the Ontario Association of Pathologists (1972). In 2017, the Snyder family sold the property to the current owner: 1325624 Ontario Limited.

Architectural Description

The property is accessed from Chilligo Drive via a gravel driveway framed by deciduous trees, south of the Clemens House. The rural property is expansive (63 acres) and contains active farmland, woodlots, sections of the Chilligo-Ellis Creek, and a residential lot with mature trees.

The house on the residential lot is a two-and-a-half storey brick masonry building set on a rough-cut stone foundation. The house was built in the Mennonite Georgian architectural style. According to Parks Canada's 1974 publication *The Buildings of Canada*, the Georgian tradition is characterized by sturdy, well-proportioned houses that are usually two-and-a-half storeys. Georgian homes tend to have balanced facades, central doorways, and 3-5-7 bays. As Robert Mikel notes in *Ontario House Styles*, "Georgian design is uncluttered, based on the rules of symmetry, proportion, and balance (Mikel, 14). The Mennonite Georgian style is further unembellished and simplified, echoing the cultural and religious values of Pennsylvania German Mennonite settlers.

The Clemens House was built in solid rectangular form with symmetrical proportions and a two-storey porch over the front entrance. The façade, facing Chilligo Road, is a symmetrical five-bay front with a central door, two flanking windows, and two brick-in window openings. The upper floor also includes two bricked-in sections. The doorway is modest but does include a rectangular transom light header above. The façade is defined by a large, two-storey porch with supporting columns and balcony. The windows are two-over-two sash windows capped with brick jack arches. In the gable end of both south and north elevations, are two, small, two-over-two attic windows. There are also small, inset basement windows visible on north and south elevations.

The brick masonry on all elevations is laid in common bond. North and south elevations, which include heavy returned eaves, showcase decorative cast-iron anchor plates bolted onto supporting tie rods. The roof is a simple side gable layout of medium pitch. The roof includes symmetrical, flanking brick chimneys, with modest corbelling at the top of each. The rear of the house includes a small, one-storey "tail" extension. The northern end of the rear extension is composed of a continuation of red brick masonry while the southern end is composed of an open, covered porch with support columns. The rear extension also includes a brick chimney at the back of the gable ridgeline.

Contextual Description:

The subject property is surrounded by farmland on Chilligo Road, a picturesque rural road framed by mature trees and offering scenic views of hills and farms. Along with the historic Clemens House, the property contains active farmland, woodlots, and sections of Chilligo-Ellis Creek. The property's mature trees provide a towering presence along Chilligo Road, given the lot's location on an elevated plateau. The property has historical connections numerous other area farm properties, many of which were also settled by German immigrants from Pennsylvania. The property is located on Chilligo-Ellis Creek which, at Schiedel Pond, was the site of Fisher's Mills, an operation run by John and Aaron Clemens in the mid-to-late 19th century.

Evaluation Under Ontario Regulation 9/06

According to a suite of changes introduced to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, properties must meet at least two (2) of nine (9) criteria under *Ontario Regulation 9/06* to be considered for designation.

Heritage Planning staff are of the opinion that the property warrants designation based on a determination that the property satisfies five (5) of the nine (9) criteria contained in the *Ontario Regulation 9/06* (as amended by *Ontario Regulation 569/22*).

1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

YES – The property located at 745 Chilligo Road is considered a representative example of Mennonite Georgian architecture. The two-and-a-half storey, red brick dwelling has a solid rectangular form, symmetrical proportions, and a two-storey porch over the front entrance. It is complete with symmetrical brick chimneys, symmetrical bays with two-over-two sash windows, and rough-cut stone foundation. This simple, unembellished example is characteristic of the vernacular Georgian style embodied by Pennsylvania German Mennonites. The modest nature of this architectural style is illustrative of the cultural values of this community, such as simplicity, humility, and plainness.

2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

NO – Although the Clemens House is a representative example of Mennonite Georgian architecture, it does not appear to display rare or unique architectural or artistic elements or a high degree of building craftsmanship.

3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

NO – There is no evidence of technical or scientific achievement on the exterior or interior of this building that would be unusual, rare, or outstanding during this period.

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.

YES – The property at 745 Chilligo Road is associated with several pioneering families in Waterloo Region including the Clemens, Snyder, Shantz, and Strohm/Strome families. The property is directly associated with John Strohm Clemens, a local industrialist, miller, and farmer. Clemens, along with his brother Aaron, ran the well-known Fisher's Mills flour mill from 1864 to 1882. The property is also strongly associated with Pennsylvania German culture, more generally, and farming traditions among early Mennonites.

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.

YES – This property has not been well-documented in local historical sources. Prior to this evaluation, a comprehensive historical assessment of the property has not taken place. This report has compiled historical and archival sources to document the historical evolution of the site and the various owners and their connections to the community. Further study could yield additional information that could lead to a greater understanding of the property and community.

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.

NO – The property is not known to demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist significant to the community. Research did not reveal a builder or architect associated with the property.

7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

YES – The property maintains and supports the character of Chilligo Road, a picturesque rural road framed by mature trees and offering scenic views of hills and farmscapes. Chilligo Road contains narrow, winding sections and several other 19th century farmhouses on well treed lots. The property at 745 Chilligo Road contributes to

this rural character through a landscape of mature trees and the prominence of the Clemens House on an elevated location facing Chilligo Road.

8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

YES – The property is historically linked to its surroundings in an area settled by a large contingent of German-origin immigrants from the United States and immediately adjacent to land settled through the German Company. The property is a longstanding agricultural property farmed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries and surrounded by fields in active agricultural production. The rural property has historical linkages to other nearby historic farms and the settlement of the area. The property is also historically linked to the nearby Fisher’s Mills operation on Chilligo-Ellis Creek, formerly operated by John Clemens.

9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

NO – Although the property contains considerable cultural heritage value and local significance, it is not considered a landmark.

Cultural Heritage Attributes

The following is a summary of the key heritage attributes of 745 Chilligo Road. A full list of heritage attributes are described in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes (see **Attachment 2**).

- The two-and-a-half storey Mennonite Georgian house with rectangular layout;
- The overall massing, setback, and location of the house on a prominent rise, facing Chilligo Road;
- All four elevations composed of red brick masonry laid in common bond;
- Symmetrical five-bay façade with two-storey porch with supporting columns and balcony;
- All doors, windows, and window openings topped with brick jack arches;
- Corbelled brick chimneys;
- Rear, one-storey extension with porch; and,
- The mature deciduous trees contributing to the rural, naturalized setting on the property.

The heritage analysis conducted by Heritage Planning staff did not include an interior evaluation. As such, no interior features were included within the recommended list of heritage attributes.

EXISTING POLICY / BY-LAW(S):

Ontario Heritage Act

Designation by Municipal By-law

29 (1) The council of a municipality may, by-law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if,

(a) where criteria for determining whether property is of cultural heritage value or interest have been prescribed, the property meets the prescribed criteria; and

(b) the designation is made in accordance with the process set out in this section. 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (1); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (1); 2022, c. 21, Sched. 6, s. 4 (1).

Notice Required

(1.1) Subject to subsections (1.2) and (2), if the council of a municipality intends to designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest, it shall cause notice of intention to designate the property to be given by the clerk of the municipality in accordance with subsection (3). 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (1); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (2).

Consultation

(2) Where the council of a municipality has appointed a municipal heritage committee, the council shall, before giving notice of its intention to designate a property under subsection (1), consult with its municipal heritage committee. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 29 (2); 2002, c. 18, Sched. F, s. 2 (9).

Notice of Intention

(3) Notice of intention to designate under subsection (1) shall be,

(a) served on the owner of the property and on the Trust; and

(b) published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 29 (3); 2005, c. 6, s. 1.

Contents of Notice

(4) Notice of intention to designate property that is served on the owner of property and on the Trust under clause (3) (a) shall contain,

(a) an adequate description of the property so that it may be readily ascertained;

(b) a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property; and

(c) a statement that notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality under clause (3) (b). 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (2); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (4).

Same

(4.1) Notice of intention to designate property that is published in a newspaper of general circulation in a municipality under clause (3) (b) shall contain,

(a) an adequate description of the property so that it may be readily ascertained;

(b) a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property;

(c) a statement that further information respecting the notice of intention to designate the property is available from the municipality; and

(d) a statement that notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality under clause (3) (b). 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (2); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (5).

City of Cambridge Official Plan

4.6 Designation of Heritage Properties

1. The City will regulate as fully as possible the demolition, removal or inappropriate alteration of buildings of cultural heritage value or interest included in the Register of Cultural Heritage Resources referred to in Section 4.3, and for these purposes, Council may:

- a) pass by-laws pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act* to designate properties including such buildings or structures to be of cultural heritage value. Council shall not permit the demolition, removal or inappropriate alteration of such buildings or structures for a period of 90 days following application by the owner of such buildings or structures, or such further period of time as Council and the

owner may agree upon, unless Council has repealed the by-law designating such property or part thereof;

- b) pass by-laws providing for the acquisition by purchase, lease or otherwise of any property designated in accordance with Policy 4.6.1 a) or for the expropriation of any such property;
- c) dispose by sale, lease or otherwise of any designated property acquired in accordance with Policy 4.6.1 b) upon such terms and conditions as Council may consider necessary; or
- d) enter into any easement agreement or covenant with the owner of a designated property, register such easement or covenant against the real property affected in the land registry office, enforce such registered easement or covenant against the owner or any subsequent owner of such real property and assign such easement or covenant to any person, who, in the opinion of Council, will preserve and maintain the property to protect the cultural heritage resource described in the Register referred to in Section 4.3.

2. Council will preserve and protect the cultural heritage resources owned by the City and prepare and follow a maintenance programme for these resources.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no cost to property owners associated with designating a property in Cambridge. The property owner will be able to apply for a Designated Heritage Property Grant to support the costs of maintaining the heritage attributes of the property. The City does provide the property owner with a date-stamped, cast heritage plaque at a cost of approximately \$500. The City also pays to register the bylaw on title to the property, which is under \$100.

PUBLIC VALUE:

Transparency:

The MHAC agenda is posted on the City's website as part of the reporting process.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

A site visit from the public right of way was conducted on August 20, 2025, to assess the property's current condition. The property owner and resident of the property were

both notified via registered mail on November 3, 2025, regarding the staff report and the heritage designation process.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the findings that the subject property meets five (5) criteria under *Ontario Regulation 9/06* (as amended by *Ontario Regulation 569/22*), Heritage Planning staff are of the opinion that the property possesses significant cultural heritage value to warrant designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Therefore, staff recommend that MHAC endorse the designation of the property and request that Council direct the City Clerk to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property located at 745 Chilligo Road, in accordance with Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: **No**

By-law: **No**

Budget Amendment: **No**

Policy: **No**

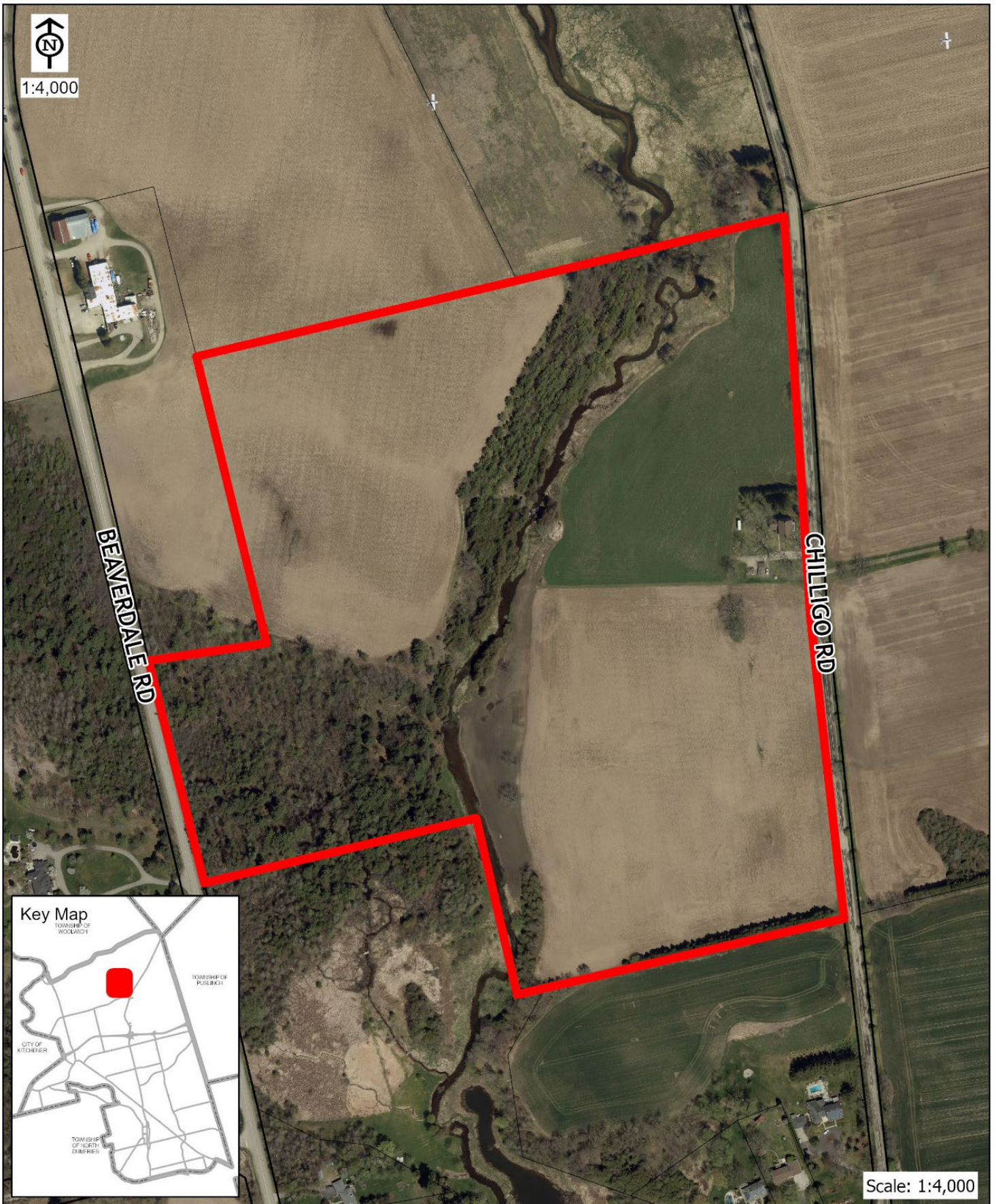
APPROVALS:

**This report has been reviewed and approved for inclusion in the agenda by
Melissa Aldunate, Manager of Policy Planning.**

ATTACHMENT:

1. Attachment 1: Location Map
2. Attachment 2: Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes
3. Attachment 3: WSP Property Review Form
4. Attachment 4: Site Photographs
5. Attachment 5: Historical Documentation

Attachment 1 – Location Map



745 CHILLIGO RD

ATTACHMENT 2

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes

745 Chilligo Road (Clemens House)

Description of Historic Place

The property at 745 Chilligo Road is located northwest of the community of Hespeler, on the west side of Chilligo Road. The property contains farm fields, woodland, sections of the Chilligo-Ellis Creek, and a residential lot with a 19th century farmhouse (Clemens House). The residential lot contains several mature deciduous trees, a garden bed along the perimeter of the home, and a gravel driveway south of the house.

Summary of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 745 Chilligo Road exhibits physical/design value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

The Clemens House is considered a representative example of Mennonite Georgian architecture. The two-and-a-half storey, red brick dwelling has a solid rectangular form, symmetrical proportions, and a two-storey porch over the front entrance. It is complete with symmetrical brick chimneys, symmetrical bays with two-over-two sash windows, and a rough-cut stone foundation. This simple, unembellished dwelling is characteristic of the vernacular Georgian style embodied by Pennsylvania German Mennonites. The modest nature of this architectural style is illustrative of the cultural values of this community, such as simplicity, humility, and plainness.

The property at 745 Chilligo Road is associated several pioneering families in Waterloo Region including the Clemens, Snyder, Shantz, and Strohm/Strome families. The property is directly associated with John Strohm Clemens, a local industrialist, miller, and farmer. Clemens, along with his brother Aaron, ran the well-known Fisher's Mills flour mill from 1864 to 1882. The property is also strongly associated with Pennsylvania German culture, more generally, and farming traditions among early Mennonites.

The is surrounded by farmland on Chilligo Road, a picturesque rural road framed by mature trees and offering scenic views of hills and farms. Along with the historic Clemens House, the property contains active farmland, woodlots, and sections of Chilligo-Ellis Creek. The property's mature trees provide a towering presence along Chilligo Road, given the lot's location on an elevated plateau. The property has historical connections numerous other area farm properties, many of which were also settled by German immigrants from Pennsylvania. The property is located on Chilligo-Ellis Creek which, at Schiedel Pond, was the site of Fisher's Mills, an operation run by John and Aaron Clemens in the mid-to-late 19th century.

ATTACHMENT 2

Description of Heritage Attributes

The character-defining heritage attributes of the Clemens House property include the following:

- Two-storey Mennonite Georgian house with rectangular layout;
- The overall massing, setback, and location of the house on a prominent rise, facing Chilligo Road;
- All four elevations composed of red brick masonry laid in common bond;
- Symmetrical five-bay façade with two-storey porch with supporting columns and balcony;
- All doors, windows, and window openings, including two-over-two wooden sash windows and small, two-over-two attic windows;
- Transom light above front entrance door;
- Brick jack arches above windows and doors;
- Stone foundation with rough cut masonry blocks on front elevation;
- Roof profile, pitch, flanking corbelled brick chimneys, and returned eaves visible on north and south elevations;
- Decorative, cast-iron anchor plates on north and south elevations; and,
- Rear, one-storey extension with porch.

These features contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property by reflecting physical/design value in the Clemens House original layout, original building material, and historic architectural and design features. The assemblage of these architectural elements forms a representative example of the Mennonite Georgian architectural style and an expression of German-Canadian settlement culture.

The character-defining heritage attributes of the property also include the mature deciduous trees contributing to the rural, naturalized setting on the property and the rural setting of Chilligo Road.

The property's heritage designation does not extend to any interior features.

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
LISTED (NON-DESIGNATED) PROPERTY REVIEW FORM**

Address: 745 Chilligo Road, Cambridge, Ontario

Common Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Ward: 1 (Hespeler)

Legal Description: N/A



Plate 1: Front Facade of 745 Chilligo Road



Plate 2: Location of 745 Chilligo Road

PROPERTY OBSERVATIONS:

Integrity: Preserved / Intact Modified Compromised Demolished (date): _____

Construction Period: 1820-1850 1851-1875 1876-1900 1901-1945 1946-1975 1976-1999

Year (if known): c.1870

Architect / Builder / Craftsperson (if known): Click or tap here to enter text.

Massing: Single-detached Semi-detached Row Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

Storeys: 1 1½ 2 2½ 3 3½ 4 or more Irregular Other: _____

Foundation Construction Material: Stone Brick Concrete Wood Other: _____ Finish:

Building Construction Material (if known): Brick Frame (wood) Stone Log Other: _____

Building Cladding: Wood Stone Brick Stucco Synthetic Other: _____ Finish: Red brick

Roof Type: Hip Flat Gambrel Mansard Gable Other: _____ **Type:**

Roof Materials: Asphalt Shingle Wood Shingle Slate Tile/Terra Cotta Tar/Gravel Metal Other: _____

Architectural Style / Influence:

<input type="checkbox"/> Art Deco / Moderne (1910-1950)	<input type="checkbox"/> Classical Revival (1820-1860)	<input type="checkbox"/> International (1920-1950)	<input type="checkbox"/> Neo-Gothic (1900-1945)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regency (1820-1860)
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Crafts (1890-1940)	<input type="checkbox"/> Colonial Revival (1900-2003)	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian Villa (1830-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario Cottage (1840-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richardson Romanesque (1840-1900)
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaux-Arts (1885-1945)	<input type="checkbox"/> Edwardian (1890-1916)	<input type="checkbox"/> Italianate (1850-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Period Revivals (1900-2014)	<input type="checkbox"/> Second Empire (1860-1900)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow (1900-1945)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georgian / Mennonite Georgian (1750-1850)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-Century Modern (1945-1965)	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Modern (1960-2009)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular
<input type="checkbox"/> Chateau (1880-1930)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gothic Revival (1830-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Neo-Classical (1810-1850)	<input type="checkbox"/> Queen Anne (1870-1910)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wartime Housing (1940-1960)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Click or tap here to enter text.				

Notes: Click or tap here to enter text.

Notable Building Features:

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Porch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sill(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tower/Spire | <input type="checkbox"/> Bargeboard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eaves |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Verandah | <input type="checkbox"/> Lintel(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dome | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transom | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balustrade |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balcony | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters | <input type="checkbox"/> Finial | <input type="checkbox"/> Side Light | <input type="checkbox"/> Dormer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Quoins | <input type="checkbox"/> Pilaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Pediment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stairs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voussoir | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital | <input type="checkbox"/> Brackets | <input type="checkbox"/> Parapet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornice | <input type="checkbox"/> Panel | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Stone | <input type="checkbox"/> Bay |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Window Details: Two-over-two | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Column | <input type="checkbox"/> Cresting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: symmetrical fenestration and chimney placement, returned eaves |

Notes: Click or tap here to enter text.

Context:

- Streetscape (Residential / Commercial) Terrace / Row Complex / Grouping Landmark
- Multi-Address Parcel (list addresses): Click or tap here to enter text. Other: Rural
- Related Buildings: Click or tap here to enter text.

Plan: Square Rectangular L U T H Cross Irregular Other: _____

Wings: Rear **Setback:** Shallow Deep At ROW **Other:** _____ Corner Lot

Accessory Features and Structures:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Features (i.e., stone wall, fountain, trees/garden beds):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several mature trees throughout the property • Garden bed along the perimeter of the home • Gravel driveway on the left side of the home | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structures (i.e., shed, ice house, drive shed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small greenhouse on the left side of the driveway |
|---|--|

- Open agricultural fields throughout the property
- Ellis Creek running through the middle of the property
- Dense forest along Ellis Creek and to the rear of the property

ADDITIONAL NOTES, DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH:

N/A

Further Historical Value/ Associative Value Research/Evaluation:

Recommended Not Recommended

Related Planning, Building or Heritage Files:

N/A

OBSERVATION FORM COMPLETION:

Surveyed By:	Meghan McKay, Junior Cultural Heritage Specialist	Date:	12/17/2024
Reviewed By:	Kanika Kaushal, Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist	Date:	08/21/2025

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

For properties to be considered *Significant Built Resources* and prioritized for inclusion in the designation work plan, they must meet, at minimum, **two** of nine O. Reg. 9/06 criteria (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22).

For properties to be considered *Character-Supporting Resources* and to be retained on the Heritage Register, they must meet, at minimum, **one** O. Reg. 9/06 criteria.

Yes/No	O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria	Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. The property's style, type, expression, material or construction method is: <input type="checkbox"/> rare <input type="checkbox"/> unique <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> representative <input type="checkbox"/> early	The property at 745 Chilligo Road contains a two-storey red brick home that is representative of the Georgian architectural style. Notable architectural features include the red brick exterior, two symmetrical brick chimneys, symmetrical window opening placement, two-over-two sash windows, stone foundation and two-storey covered porch with a balcony on top.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. The property displays a high degree of: <input type="checkbox"/> craftsmanship <input type="checkbox"/> artistic merit	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. The property demonstrates a high degree of: <input type="checkbox"/> technical <input type="checkbox"/> scientific achievement.	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. The property has direct associations with a potentially significant: <input type="checkbox"/> theme <input type="checkbox"/> event <input type="checkbox"/> belief <input type="checkbox"/> person <input type="checkbox"/> activity <input type="checkbox"/> organization <input type="checkbox"/> institution	The 1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map identifies the subject lands under ownership of John Clemens (1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map) who was a prominent landowner, distillery owner, and the first reeve of the incorporated Village of Galt. No direct associative link between John Clemens and the subject property has been demonstrated.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. The property yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. The property demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of a potentially significant: <input type="checkbox"/> architect <input type="checkbox"/> artist <input type="checkbox"/> builder <input type="checkbox"/> designer <input type="checkbox"/> theorist	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. The property is important in: <input type="checkbox"/> defining <input type="checkbox"/> maintaining <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> supporting the character of an area.	The property is important in supporting the historical and agricultural character of the area. The building materials, architectural style, mature trees, Ellis Creek, and the large agricultural fields all support the historical and agricultural character of the area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. The property is linked to its surroundings: <input type="checkbox"/> physically <input type="checkbox"/> functionally <input type="checkbox"/> visually <input type="checkbox"/> historically	N/A

Yes/No	O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. The property is a landmark.	N/A

Classification:

- Significant Built Heritage Resource
 Character Supporting Resource
 Not a Heritage Resource

Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:

Description of the Property:	The property at 745 Chilligo Road contains a two-storey red brick home in the Georgian architectural style. The property also contains several mature trees throughout the property, a garden bed along the perimeter of the home, a gravel driveway on the left side of the home, open agricultural fields throughout the property, Ellis Creek running through the middle of the property, as well as dense forest vegetation along Ellis Creek and to the rear of the property.
Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:	<p>The property at 745 Chilligo Road contains a two-storey red brick home that is representative of the Georgian architectural style. Notable architectural features include the red brick exterior, two symmetrical brick chimneys, symmetrical window opening placement, two-over-two sash windows, stone foundation and two-storey covered porch with a balcony on top.</p> <p>The 1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map identifies the subject lands under ownership of John Clemens (1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map) who was a prominent landowner, distillery owner, and the first reeve of the incorporated Village of Galt.</p> <p>No direct associative link between John Clemens and the subject property has been demonstrated. Further research is recommended.</p> <p>The property is important in supporting the historical and agricultural character of the area. The building materials, architectural style, mature trees, Ellis Creek, and the large agricultural fields all support the historical and agricultural character of the area.</p>
Heritage Attributes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-storey red brick Georgian home • Red brick exterior • Two symmetrical brick chimneys • Symmetrical window opening placement • Two-over-two sash windows • Stone foundation • Two-storey covered porch with a balcony on top • Mature trees along Chilligo Road and lining the driveway

CRITERIA OF RISK OR VALUE:

Properties that meet many of the following risk criteria may be prioritized for inclusion in the designation work plan:

- Known to possess significant CHVI (i.e., rare, unique, important historic associations, landmark)

- Located along a corridor planned for intensification
- Located in a proposed Stage 2 ION Station Area
- Located in a Secondary Plan Area or area aligned with other City initiatives or studies
- The site of a proposed development or threatened with demolition (Adjacent to 355 which is subject to a OPA/ZBA and severance.)
- Located in an area experiencing development pressure or with a trend of high heritage loss (i.e., high number of development and building permit applications received)
- Located in an area with a concentration of pre-1950 buildings
- Located in a remaining settlement area (i.e., distinct place with unique identities)
- Located on a rural landscape or other cultural heritage landscape (i.e., does the property contain a barn?)

RECOMMENDATION:

- Add to Designation Work Plan
- Consider designation as part of an HCD (Part V Designation)
- Retain on Heritage Register (until 2027) and add to non-status inventory
- Remove from Heritage Register

NOTES:

- N/A

EVALUATION FORM COMPLETION:

Surveyed By:	Meghan McKay, Junior Cultural Heritage Specialist	Date:	12/17/2024
Reviewed By:	Kanika Kaushal, Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist	Date:	04/29/2025
City Staff Reviewer:	Jeremy Parsons, Senior Planner - Heritage	Date:	05/23/2025
Council Decision:		Date:	
City Database Update:		Date:	

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTATION:

- [Tremaine's map of the County of Ontario, Upper Canada \[cartographic material\] / drawn by John Shier, Esq. P.L.S. & County Engineer \(4 digital object\(s\)\) Archives / Collections and Fonds](#)

ATTACHMENT 4



Figure 1: Looking north, from the entrance on Chilligo Road, towards the south elevation (Parsons, 2025).



Figure 2: A closer view of the south elevation and front façade (Parsons, 2025).

ATTACHMENT 4



Figure 3: View of the northeast corner of the house, showing the north elevation and rear addition (Google Street View, 2016).



Figure 4: View of the front façade (Google Street View, 2023).

ATTACHMENT 4



Figure 5: A second view of the front façade (WSP Canada, 2025).



Figure 6: A contextual view, looking north, from Chilligo Road (Google Street View, 2023).



Figure 7: A contextual view, looking south, from Chilligo Road (Google Street View, 2023).

Historical Documentation

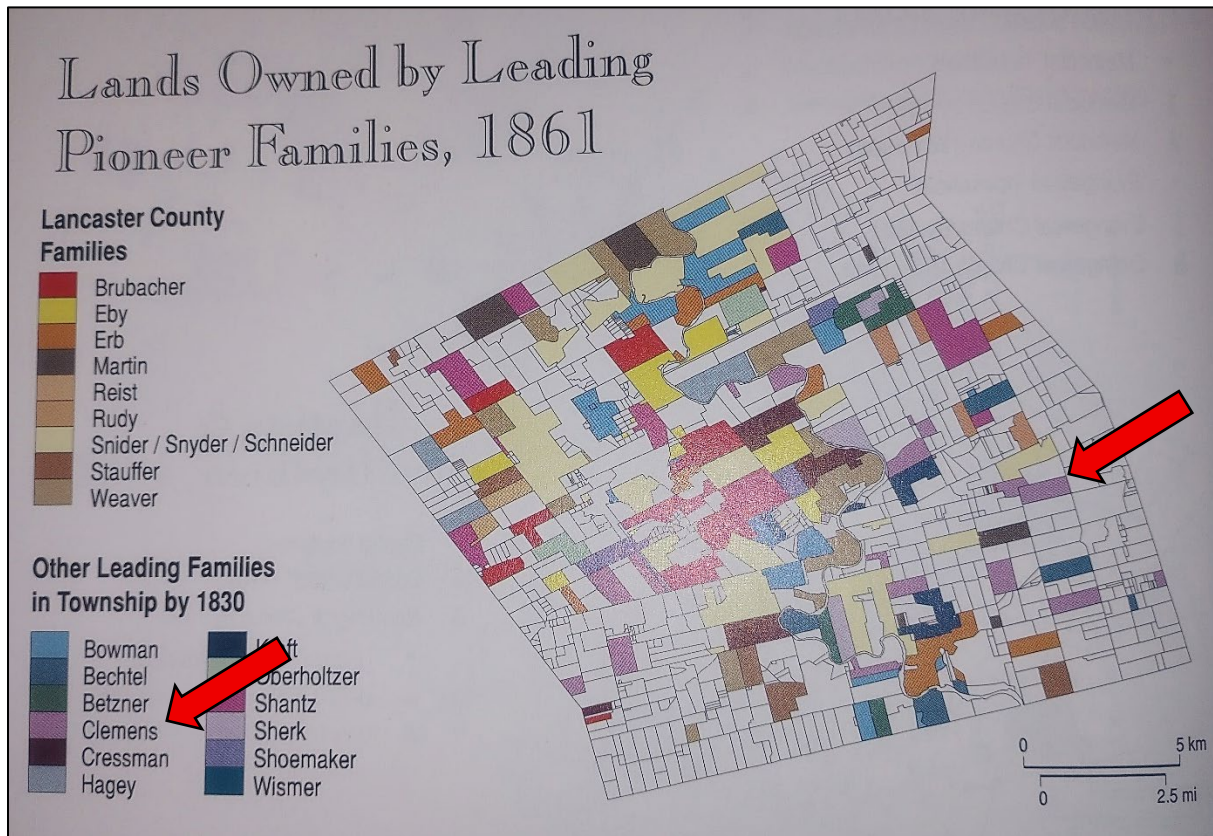


Figure 9: A map showing the lands owned by leading pioneer families in Waterloo Township in 1861, in Bloomfield's *Waterloo Township Through Two Centuries*. The lands owned by John Clemens (lots 12 and 13) are shown in purple and indicated by an arrow (Bloomfield, 10).

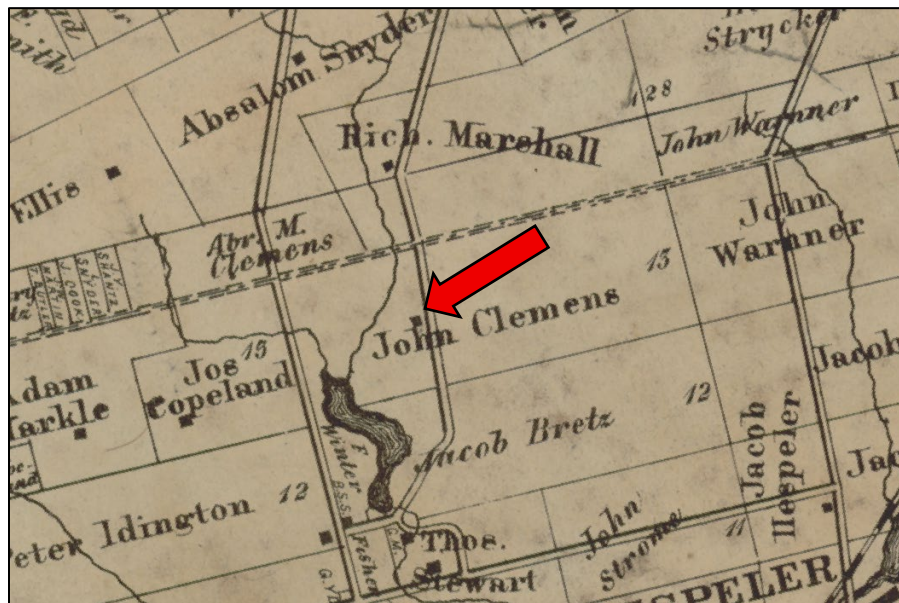


Figure 10: The subject property, under the ownership of John Clemens, indicated by an arrow, on the 1861 *Map of the County of Waterloo, Canada West* (Library and Archives Canada).

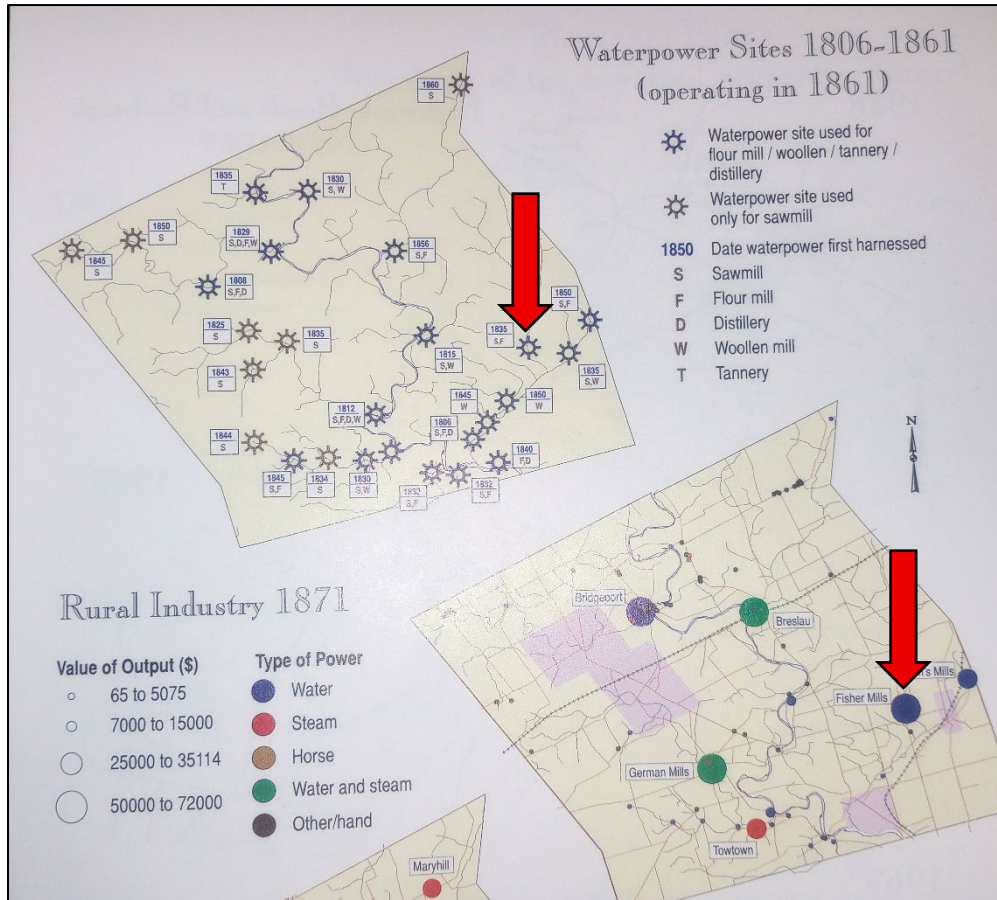


Figure 11: The location of Fisher Mills, indicated by an arrow, on maps showing mill sites in 1861 and 1871 in Bloomfield’s *Waterloo Township Through Two Centuries*. Fisher Mills is shown as a waterpower flour mill and sawmill with a large monetary value of output (Bloomfield, 11).



Figure 12: Advertisement for Fisher’s Mills, with Aaron and John Clemens noted as proprietors, in the 1878 *County of Waterloo Gazetteer and Directory* by Armstrong and Company (Kitchener Public Library).

ATTACHMENT 5

10		TOWNSHIP OF WATERLOO.	
		Con. Lot.	Con. Lot.
Bushert, Abraham, laborer	g c t	Cressman, Joseph	ward 2 107 f
Bushert, Wendell, farmer	g c t	Cressman, Magdalena	u b 122 f
Carlisle, Matthews, miller		Croft, David, innkeeper, Blain	
	ward 2 114 h	Cropp, Casper	3 6 f
Carroll, William, teacher	u b 92 h	Crossen, Charles	u b 94 f
Cavanah, Robert	ward 3 62 f	Crowder, Solomon, pedler	
Centgroff, John C., mason	l 7 f		ward 3 59 h
Christner, Aaron	u b 39 h	Daibecker, Andrew	ward 3 43 f
Clafton, Calvin, Clothier	b f 28 f	Dagleish, Wm., farmer, Beasley	
Cleghorn, Thomas	ward 2 97 h	Dalor, George	ward 3 45 f
Clemens, Abraham C.	2 13 f	Datels, Christian	u b 110 f
Clemens, Abraham B.	u b 123 f	Davidson, George, Sheriff	u b 58 f
Clemens, Amos	b f 19 f	Dechar, Henry, mason, ward 3	12 f
Clemens, Christian, farmer, Beasley		Defgee, John	u b 88 f
Clemens, Eli	u b 48 f	Detweiler, Jacob Z., farmer,	
Clemens, George	u b 111 f	Beasley	
Clemens, Isaac, J. P.	1 9 f	Detweiler, John, farmer, Beasley	
Clemens, Jacob E.	u b 122 h	Detweiler, Abraham, farmer,	
Clemens, Jesse	b f 30 f	Beasley	
Clemens, Joel	b f 21 f	Detweiler, Henry	u b 89 f
Clemens, John and Aaron, millers	2 12 f	Detweiler, Henry B., waggon- maker	ward 2 70 h

Figure 13: John and Aaron Clemens are noted as millers and freehold owners of Lot 12, Concession 2 in the 1867 *Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Waterloo* by Irwin and Burnham (Kitchener Public Library).

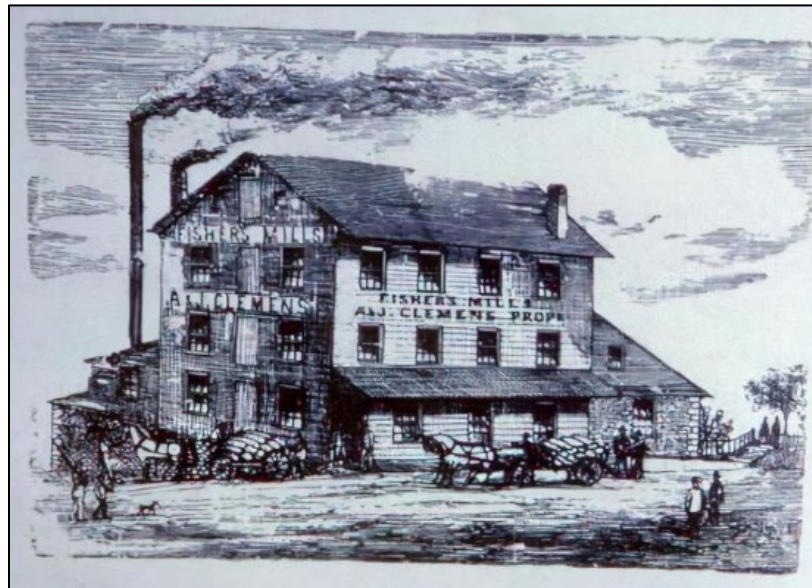


Figure 14: A historical hand drawing of Fisher's Mills under the ownership of Aaron and John Clemens, from the Howard Cressman Collection, and taken from *The History of Fisher Mills and Beavertdale, Ontario* by Paul Langan (Langan, 20).

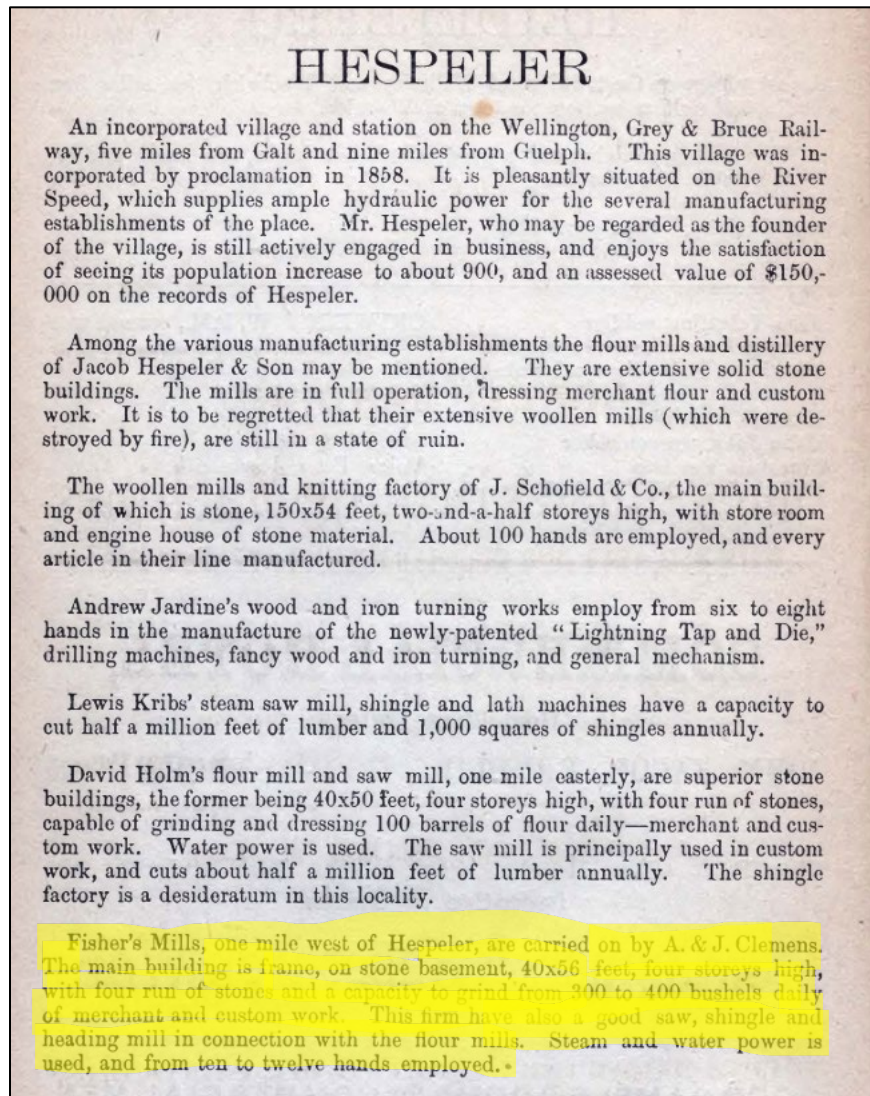


Figure 15: Description of Fisher's Mills, operated by Aaron and John Clemens in the 1878 *County of Waterloo Gazetteer and Directory* by Armstrong and Company (Kitchener Public Library).

39	39	Clemens John S	M	46	1	0	Chas. Boston	German	Norman	J	2nd
		Rebecca	F	45	1	0	"	"	"		2nd
		Abraham	M	23	1	"	"	"	"		
		Nathaniel	M	21	1	"	"	"	"		
		Maria	F	18	1	"	"	"	"		
		Isiah	M	18	1	"	"	"	"		
		Caroline	F	17	1	"	"	"	"		

Figure 16: Excerpt from the 1881 Census of Canada showing John S. and Rebecca living on the family farm with children Abraham, Nathaniel, Maria, Isiah, and Caroline (Library and Archives Canada).

ATTACHMENT 5



Figure 17: An undated photograph of John Strohm Clemens (Garry Stretton via WikiTree).



Figure 18: The subject property, indicated by an arrow, on the 1881 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Waterloo* by H. Parsell and Co. The extant farmhouse is shown on the map, under the ownership of John Clemens (McGill University).

ATTACHMENT 5

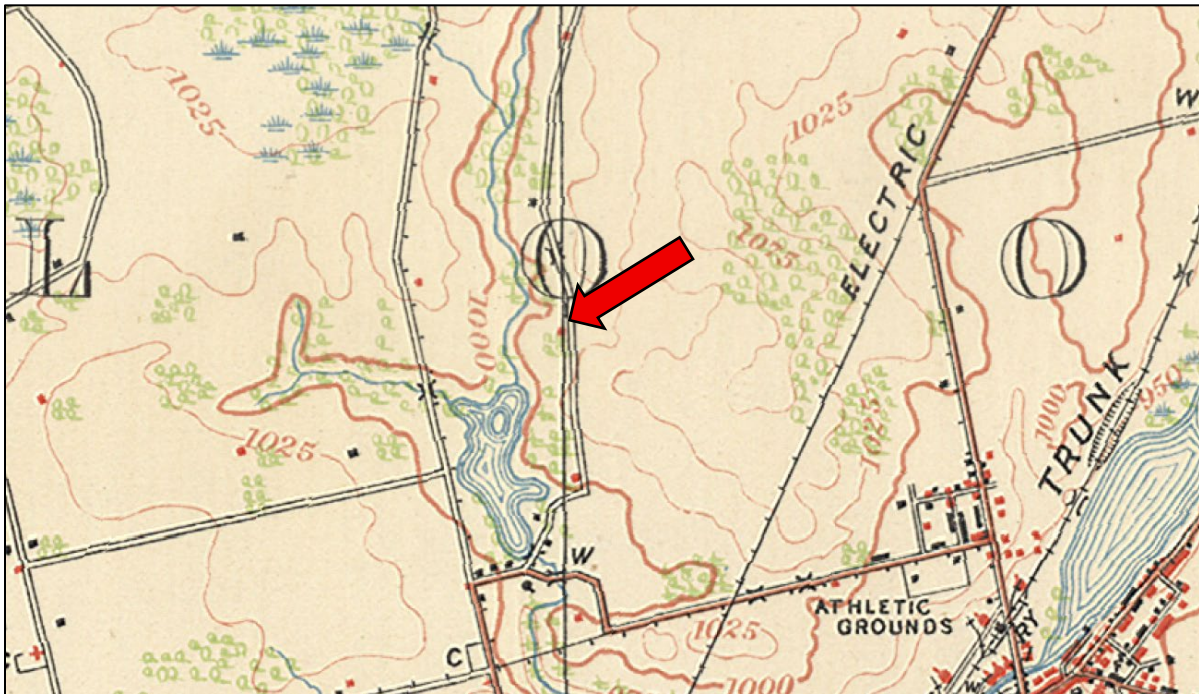


Figure 19: The subject property, indicated by an arrow, on the 1916 *Topographical Map of Ontario, Galt Sheet*. The farmhouse is visible as a red square, indicating masonry construction (Department of Militia, Scholars GeoPortal).

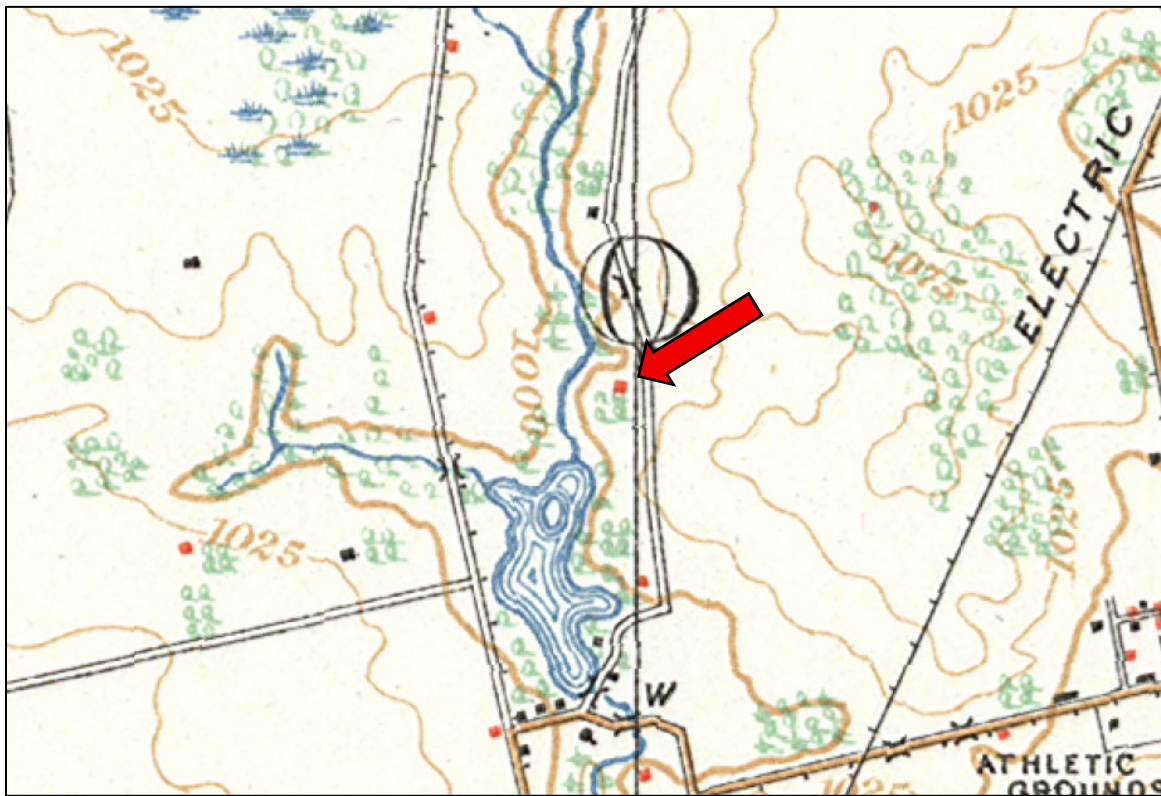


Figure 20: The subject property, indicated by an arrow, on the 1923 *Topographical Map of Ontario, Galt Sheet*. The farmhouse is visible as a red square, indicating masonry construction (Department of National Defence, Scholars GeoPortal).

ATTACHMENT 5

Hespeler, Sept. 21.—An old resident of the community answered the summons of the grim reaper at 4 o'clock this morning, in the person of John S. Clemens. Deceased, who was in his 86th year, had been ill only about two weeks. Old age helped to hasten his end. During his residence as a farmer in this vicinity he had gained many friends, who will miss him greatly. Deceased was a director of the South Waterloo Fire Insurance Company and a member of the local Presbyterian church. His wife predeceased him seven years ago. The following children survive Abraham, Nathaniel and Aaron, near home; Mrs. James Elis of Clifford; Levi, Detroit; Mrs. I.W. Eaton in the township, Mrs. (Rev.) James Austen, Minnesota; Mrs. Roy Newman of Gladys, Alberta, and Mervin of Wyandotte, Mich. The funeral takes place from the late residence, Fisher Mills road, to Warner's cemetery at 2.30 Tuesday afternoon.

Figure 21: Obituary for John S. Clemens from the September 24, 1918, issue of the *Kitchener News Record* (Find a Grave).

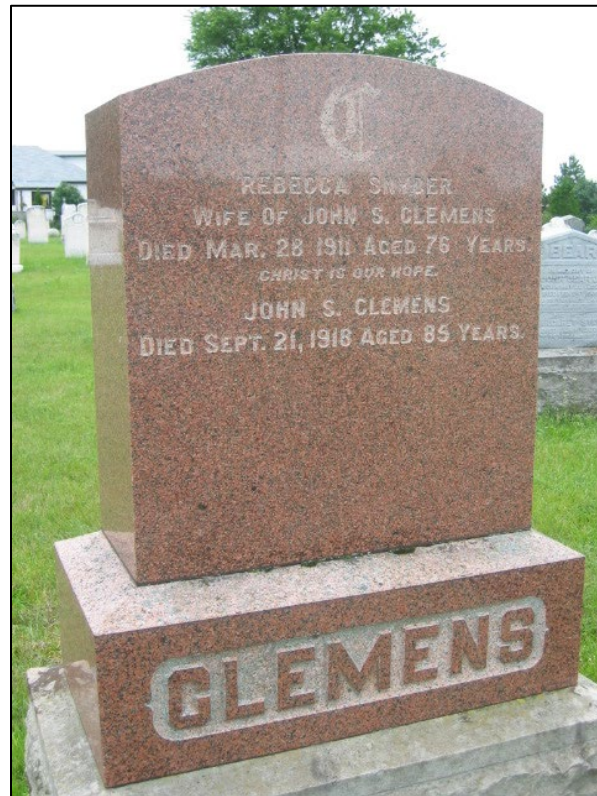


Figure 22: Tombstone for John and Rebecca Clemens located at Warner Mennonite Cemetery (Find a Grave).

Sources

ATTACHMENT 5

- Bloomfield, Elizabeth. *Waterloo Township through Two Centuries*. Kitchener: Waterloo Historical Society, 1995.
- Blumenson, John. *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the present*. Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1990.
- County of Waterloo Gazetteer and Directory, 1878*. Toronto: Armstrong and Company Publishers, 1878. Accessed through Kitchener Public Library.
- Eby, Ezra. *A Biographical History of Early Settlers and their Descendants in Waterloo Township*. Berlin, ON: self-published, 1895. Supplementary appendices by Joseph B. Snyder, 1931. Accessed through the Cambridge Public Library.
- Find a Grave. "John S. Clemens", "Rebecca Snyder Clemens", and "Abraham Clemens". <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/71241876/john-s-clemens>. Accessed November 5, 2025.
- Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Waterloo, 1867*. Toronto: Irwin and Burnham. Publishers, 1867. Accessed through Kitchener Public Library.
- Government of Canada. Census of Canada, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, and 1901, <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/index>. Accessed through Library and Archives Canada.
- Langan, Paul. *The History of Fisher Mills and Beaverville, Ontario*. Cambridge, ON: self-published, 2022.
- McGill University. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Waterloo*. Toronto: H. Parsell & Co., 1881. <https://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/searchmapframes.php>. Accessed through the Canadian County Digital Atlas Project.
- Mikel, Robert. *Ontario House Styles*. Toronto: J. Lorimer and Company Ltd., Publishers, 2004.
- Sykes, Meredith and Barbara A. Humphreys. *The Buildings of Canada*. Printed for Parks Canada by Reader's Digest Association (Canada) Ltd., 1974.
- Tremaine, George R. *Map of Waterloo County, Canada West. Compiled and Drawn from Actual and Original Surveys*. Toronto: George R. and G.M. Tremaine, 1861.
- Topographic Maps of Galt, 1916 and 1923. Produced by the Survey Division of the Department of Militia and Defence, later National Defence. Accessed through Scholars GeoPortal.
- Waterloo Region Generations. "Family Surname Search: Search People". <http://generations.regionofwaterloo.ca/searchform.php>. Accessed November 5, 2025.