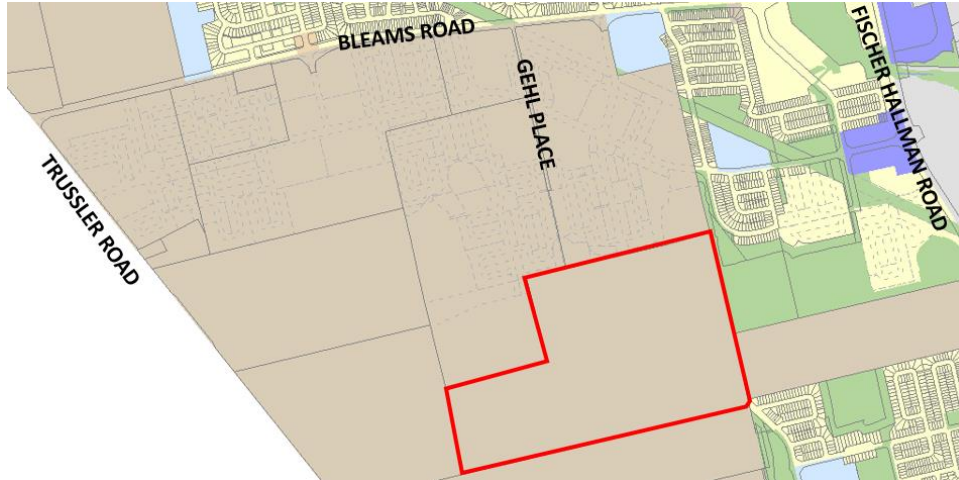


# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## 236 Gehl Place



### Summary of Significance

☒ Design/Physical Value

☒ Historical Value

☒ Contextual Value

☐ Social Value

☐ Economic Value

☐ Environmental Value

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**Municipal Address:** 236 Gehl Place

**Legal Description:** GCT Part Lot 142 & 144

**Year Built:** circa 1860

**Architectural Style:** Georgian

**Original Owner:** William Gehl

**Original Use:** Farmhouse/Agricultural

**Condition:** Good

### Description of Cultural Heritage Resource

236 Gehl Place is a two-storey mid 19<sup>th</sup> century log structure built in the Georgian architectural style. The building is situated on a 142.15 acre parcel of land located on the south side of Bleams Road between Trussler Road and Fischer Hallman Road in the Rosenberg Community Plan of the City of Kitchener within the Region of Waterloo. The principal resource that contributes to the heritage value is the log farmhouse.

### Heritage Value

236 Gehl Place is recognized for its design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual values.

### **Design/Physical Value**

The design and physical values relate to the architectural style, building materials, and construction methods. The structure is a substantial two-storey log farmhouse built in the Georgian architectural style (see Figure 2.0). The use of logs is a rare and early example of a building material and construction method. The original log house generally depicts a rectangular plan with a side gable roofline. The principal building material is the logs with chinking up to the roofline and then vertical plank boards in the gable ends. The log house is in good condition.

According to an Architectural Analysis (Ryan, 1991):

- The facades are very simple and unadorned: only brown painted eave lines and window trim provide decorative emphasis.
- There was once a veranda with shed roof spanning the entire south side of the house.
- The original windows were 6/6 double hung sash.
- Originally the house had return eaves.

### **Front (South Elevation) Façade**

The front façade displays a slightly off-centre (towards the right/east) front door with wood trim. A 2/2 flat headed double hung wood window with a wood sill is located on each side of the front door. A two-storey basic porch was a later addition. The shed roof dormer was added to facilitate access to the upper porch.

### **Side (East Elevation) Façade**

The side façade displays a symmetrical façade with a central chimney built of yellow brick flanked by windows on both sides at the basement level and on the first- and second storey. The basement windows are flat headed rectangular windows with wood sills. Some of the basement windows, which may be original, feature three-lites. The first storey features two 2/2 flat headed double hung wood windows with wood sills. The second-storey window openings are slightly smaller given the gable roof design and appear to be original; however, the one opening contains a flat-headed 1/1 hung window with wood sill, while the other opening is missing the window and currently covered by plywood.

### **Side (West Elevation) Façade**

The side façade displays a symmetrical façade. The two basement windows are flat headed rectangular windows with wood trim and sills. Some of the basement windows, which may be original, feature three-lites. The first-storey features two 2/2 flat headed double hung wood windows with wood sills. The second-storey window openings are slightly smaller given the gable roof design and appear to be original; however, the two openings contain a flat-headed 1/1 hung window with wood sill.

### **Rear (North Elevation) Façade**

The rear façade is obstructed by three later additions.

### **Historical/Associative Value**

The historic and associative values relate to the direct association with agricultural, early pioneers, the original and later property owners, and the properties contribution to the understanding of the pioneer settlers.

The historical/associative value of 236 Gehl Place was evaluated and described in *The Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape Background Study* prepared as part of the *Southwest Kitchener Urban Areas Study*. This study concluded that:

The log house was likely built by William Gehl, who acquired G.C.T. Lot 142 after the death of the previous owner, William Meyer, in 1860. Meyer had purchased G.C.T. Lot 142 in 1847 and at the time already owned G.C.T. Lot 141. Gehl gave his surname to the lane leading from Bleams Road to his farm. Based on the 1861 Tremaine Map and the 1861 Census, it is believed that William Gehl died soon after acquiring the land and building the log house because the map shows Margaret Gehl, William Gehl's wife, as the owner of the property, and the census omits William Gehl among the seven family members with children ranging in age from 10 to 26. William Gehl's will suggests that William placed a great deal of faith in his wife's abilities as he left her 166 acres on G.C.T. Lots 141 and 142 to use and manage as she thinks proper and all the stock and farming materials and house furniture. In 1861, Margaret and her family were living in what was described as a two-storey log house. Margaret retained the property for only a brief period and then sold to George Israel, and it remained in the Israel family until 1966. The property was owned by the Henhoeffter family circa 1974 for several decades (at least until 2011) before it was bought by the current owner.

### **Contextual Value**

The subject property has contextual value because it maintains and supports the rural character of the area, especially the rural lands to the south located outside of the City Urban Area. In addition, the subject property is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. 236 Gehl Place was the first of three farms that existed along Gehl Place. It is the only remaining farm on Gehl Place. The log house sits at the end of Gehl Place and looks south over acres of agricultural fields.

### **Heritage Attributes**

The heritage value of 236 Gehl Place resides in the following heritage attributes:

- a substantial two-storey log farmhouse built in the Georgian architectural style;
- the original log house generally depicts a rectangular plan with a side gable roofline;
- the principal building material is the logs with chinking up to the roofline and then vertical plank boards in the gable ends;
  - Front (South Elevation) Façade:
    - all door and window openings;
    - a slightly off-centre (towards the right/east) front door with wood trim;
    - 2/2 flat headed double hung wood windows with a wood sills located on each side of the front door;
  - Side (East Elevation) Façade:
    - a symmetrical façade with a central chimney built of yellow brick flanked by windows on both sides at the basement level and on the first- and second storey;
    - all window openings;
    - the three-lite rectangular basement windows with flat heads and wood sills;
    - the two 2/2 flat headed double hung wood windows with wood sills.
  - Side (West Elevation) Façade:
    - a symmetrical façade;
    - all window openings;
    - the three-lite rectangular basement windows with flat heads and wood sills;
    - the two 2/2 flat headed double hung wood windows with wood sills;
  - Rear (North Elevation) Façade:
    - to be included once the building additions have been removed and the façade is visible.

## References

Tausky, N.Z. (2010). *"Cultural Heritage Background Study: Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes: Southwest Kitchener Urban Area Study."* City of Kitchener: Kitchener, ON.

## Photographs



Front Elevation (South Façade)



Side Elevation (East Façade)



Side Elevation (West Façade)



# CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION FORM

Address: 236 Gehl Place Recorder: Michelle Drake

Description: c. 1860 Log Home, William Gehl Date: May 22, 2024

(date of construction, architectural style, etc)

Photographs Attached:

☒ Front Facade ☒ Left Façade ☒ Right Façade ☐ Rear Facade ☐ Details ☐ Setting

<b>Designation Criteria</b>	<b>Recorder – Heritage Kitchener Committee</b>	<b>Heritage Planning Staff</b>
1. This 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.	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

<p><i>* E.g. - constructed with a unique material combination or use, incorporates challenging geometric designs etc.</i></p>		
<p>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.</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5. The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.</p> <p><i>* E.g - A commercial building may provide an understanding of how the economic development of the City occurred. Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder,</p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>designer or theorist who is significant to a community.</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>		
<p>7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.</p> <p><i>* E.g. - It helps to define an entrance point to a neighbourhood or helps establish the (historic) rural character of an area.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.</p> <p><i>*within the region, city or neighborhood.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Notes

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<b>Additional Criteria</b>	<b>Recorder</b>	<b>Heritage Kitchener Committee</b>
<b>Interior:</b> Is the interior arrangement, finish, craftsmanship and/or detail noteworthy?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Completeness:</b> Does this structure have other original outbuildings, notable landscaping or external features that complete the site?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Site Integrity:</b> Does the structure occupy its original site?  <i>* If relocated, is it relocated on its original site, moved from another site, etc.</i>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Alterations:</b> Does this building retain most of its original materials and design features? Please refer to the list of heritage attributes within the Statement of Significance and indicate which elements are still existing and which ones have been removed.	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Alterations:</b> Are there additional elements or features that should be added to the heritage attribute list?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Condition:</b> Is the building in good condition?  <i>*E.g. - Could be a good candidate for adaptive re-use if possible and contribute towards equity-building and climate change action.</i>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Indigenous History:</b> Could this site be of importance to	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Indigenous heritage and history?</p> <p><i>*E.g. - Site within 300m of water sources, near distinct topographical land, or near cemeteries might have archaeological potential and indigenous heritage potential.</i></p> <p>Could there be any urban Indigenous history associated with the property?</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>     <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>     <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>
<p><b>Function:</b> What is the present function of the subject property?</p> <p><i>* Other may include vacant, social, institutional, etc. and important for the community from an equity building perspective.</i></p>	<p>Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Office <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> -</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Office <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> -</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Diversity and Inclusion:</b> Does the subject property contribute to the cultural heritage of a community of people?</p> <p>Does the subject property have intangible value to a specific community of people?</p> <p><i>* E.g.- Waterloo Masjid (Muslim Society of Waterloo &amp; Wellington Counties) was the first established Islamic Center and Masjid in the Region and contributes to the history of the Muslim community in the area.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>     <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>     <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>

Notes about Additional Criteria Examined

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## **Recommendation**

**Does this property meet the definition of a significant built heritage resource, and should it be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act? (Does it meet two or more of the designation criteria?)**

N/A ☐ Unknown ☐ No ☐ Yes ☒

If not, please select the appropriate action for follow-up

- ☐ Keep on the Municipal Heritage Register
- ☐ Remove from the Municipal Heritage Register
- ☐ Additional Research Required

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

General / Additional Notes

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TO BE FILLED BY HERITAGE PLANNING STAFF:

Date of Property Owner Notification: \_\_\_\_\_