

## Statement of Significance 236 Gehl Place

**Municipal Address:**  
236 Gehl Place, Kitchener

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

**Year Built:** c. 1860

**Architectural Style:** Georgian

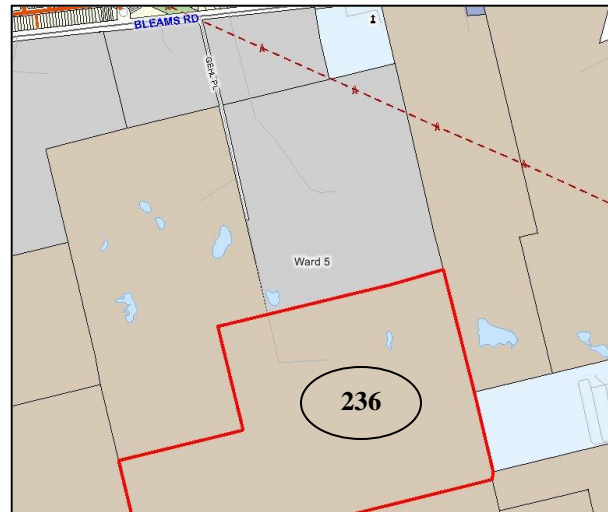
**Original Owner:** William Gehl

**Original Use:** Farm

**Condition:**

### Description of Historic Place

236 Gehl Place is a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century building built in the Georgian architectural style. The building is situated on a 142.57 acre parcel of land located on the south side of Bleams Road between Trussler Road and Fischer Hallman Road in the Trussler Planning Community of the City of Kitchener within the Region of Waterloo. The principal resources that contribute to the heritage value are the farmhouse and barn.



### Heritage Value

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

The design and physical values relate to the Georgian architectural style of the building. The building is an early and representative example of a substantial log building. The building has undergone relatively few changes. The original log building exists under layers of cladding, including stucco and aluminum siding. The building features: log construction; side gable roof; fieldstone foundation; symmetrical window placements; off-centre front door placement; original exterior door; original interior floor plan; plaster walls; original interior doors; original baseboards; original door and window surrounds; original floor joists; and, original floor boards.

The contextual value relates to the location of the house and barn at the end of the lane looking south over the farm fields.

The historic and associative values relate to the original and existing owners of the farm. Preliminary research suggests that the farm was established by William Gehl around 1860. The lane from Bleams Road leading to the farm is named Gehl Place. The 1851 Census reports identify Edward Henhoeffler as the owner of the farm. The farm is still owned by the Henhoeffler family.

## APPENDIX 'A': STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Heritage Attributes

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

- All elements related to the construction and Georgian architectural style of the house, including:
  - Log construction;
  - Side gable roof and roofline;
  - Fieldstone foundation;
  - Symmetrical window placements;
  - Window openings;
  - Off-centre front door placement;
  - Original exterior door and door opening;
  - Original interior doors;
  - Original baseboards;
  - Original door and window surrounds;
  - Original floor joists; and,
  - Original floor boards.

### Photos



**236 Gehl Place**

## APPENDIX 'A': STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Excerpt from “*Cultural Heritage Background Study: Built Heritage and Cultural Landscapes: Southwest Kitchener Urban Areas Study*” prepared by Nancy Z. Tausky dated August 2010

---

### 6.2.2 236 Gehl Place

*Legal description:* G.C.T. Part Lot 142, Part Lot 144

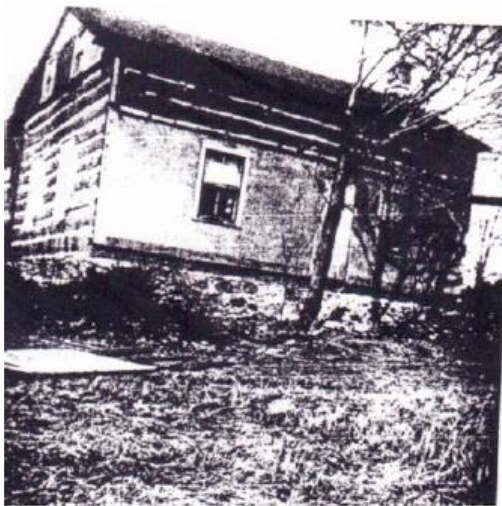
*Types of Heritage Resource:* Farmhouse and barn

*BUILT HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE BACKGROUND STUDY*  
*Southwest Kitchener Urban Areas Study*

55

#### *Historic/Associative Value:*

The farmstead at 236 Gehl Place was probably established by William Gehl, who acquired G.C.T. Lot 142 after the death of the previous owner William Meyer, in 1860., and gave his name to the lane leading from Bleams Road to his farm. (Meyer had purchased G.S.T. Lot 142 in 1847, when he already owned G.S.T. Lot 141). Gehl must have died soon after, however, because both the Tremaine map of 1861 shows his wife Margaret as the owner of the property and the 1861 Census report does not list William among the seven family members, the children ranging in age from 10 to 26. His will suggests that William placed a great deal of faith in his wife’s abilities: he leaves her 166 acres on G.S.T. Lots 141 and 142, “to youse [sic] and manage as she thinks proper and also 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 (figure 41). Margaret retained the property for only a brief period, however. In 1868, it was sold to George Israel, and it remained in the Israel family until 1866. In recent decades it has been owned by Edward Henhoeffler (Land records, 1851 and 1861 Census reports).



**Figure 41: Historical photograph of log house at 236 Gehl Place. (From the architectural analysis by Don Ryan, where the photograph was included courtesy of Mrs. Genevieve Henhoeffler)**



**Figure 42: The house at 236 Gehl Place, 2010**

*Design/Physical Value:*

The house has value as an enduring pioneer dwelling that has undergone relatively few changes to its physical structure. The original log house still exists under layers of later cladding: it was covered in stucco, then insul-brick, and then, in 1966, aluminum siding which was added after the insul-brick was removed. Additions have been added to the west and north, but the original fenestration pattern remains on the south façade and on the east and west sides. In the Georgian tradition, the windows are all placed symmetrically, but the front door is off-centre in order to allow entry directly into the main living area. Inside, much of the original floor plan remains, and the walls have a plaster finish as did the original log house. A verandah that once stretched along all of the south façade has been replaced by a one bay porch (Ryan 1991). The front shed-roofed dormer is a later addition.



**Figure 43: The barn at 236 Gehl Place**

*Contextual/Cultural Landscape Value:*

The house still sits at the end of the long road that traditionally led from Bleams Road, and it looks south over acres of tilled fields as it has throughout its history. The original barn still stands (figure 42), though its roof has naturally had to be replaced, so the spaces defined for the farmstead are relatively intact.

*Preliminary List of Heritage Attributes:*

- The original log structure
- The fieldstone foundation
- The footprint and silhouette of the original house
- The existing fenestration pattern on the east, west, and south sides, and the position of the front door
- Original interior and exterior doors
- Original baseboards and door and window surrounds
- Original floor joists
- Original floor boards

*Evaluation:*

This site merits listing in the *Municipal Heritage Register*, Designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and conservation as it is defined in the *Provincial Policy Statement*.

*Reasons for Evaluation:*

The property has design and physical value as a early, representative example of a substantial log dwelling. It has historical value because of its associations with a pioneer family, with an important family in the community, and with the development and

## APPENDIX 'A': STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

*BUILT HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE BACKGROUND STUDY*  
*Southwest Kitchener Urban Areas Study*

57

practice of agriculture in the area. It therefore also has contextual value in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of the area, and in its physical, functional, visual, and historic links to its surroundings.j