

Statement of Significance 1478 Trussler Road

Municipal Address:

1478 Trussler Road, Kitchener

Legal Description:

GCT Part Lot 145

Year Built: c. 1861

Architectural Style: Georgian

Original Owner: Thomas Trussler

Original Use: Farm

Condition:



Description of Historic Place

1478 Trussler Road features a mid 19th century log house originally built in the Georgian architectural style with later additions featuring minor influences from the Gothic Revival architectural style. The building is situated on a 87.59 acre parcel of land located on the east side of Trussler Road between Bleams Road and Huron 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 house and smoke house.

Heritage Value

1478 Trussler Road is recognized for its design, physical, historical and associative values.

The design and physical values relate to the age, material and method of construction. The house is an early and representative example of a log building. The original log building exists under layers of cladding, including brick or wood siding with stucco under front porch, insulbrick and grey aluminum siding. The house features: log construction; stone foundation; side gable roof; original door and window openings; interior fireplace and the ovens in the wall; original floor boards; original interior doors; original baseboards, casings and wainscoting; and, original joists supporting the first floor.

The design and physical value also relates to the type of building. The smoke house is rare and well preserved. The smoke house features: brick construction; front gable roof; and, interior slats of ceiling and attached hooks.

The historic and associative values relate to the original owners of the farm. Thomas Trussler, son of George Trussler, purchased the property from his father in 1861 and built the log house. A family photograph shows that the log house had been covered by siding (likely brick or wood) and stuccoed under the front porch by around 1880. Alicia Trussler, daughter of Thomas, purchased the property from her father in 1891.

Alicia and her sister Minnie lived on the property until 1899. Between 1899 and 1917 the property was tenanted or owned by a number of different owners. Oscar Trussler purchased the property in 1917 and Robert Trussler, Oscar's son, purchased the property in 1934. The property remained in Trussler family ownership until recently.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage value of 1478 Trussler Road resides in the following heritage attributes:

- All elements related to the construction and Georgian architectural style of the house, including:
 - Log construction
 - Roof and roofline;
 - Stone foundation;
 - Original door and window openings; and,
 - Interior features, including:
 - Original fireplace and ovens in the wall;
 - Original floorboards;
 - Original doors;
 - Original baseboards, casings and wainscoting; and,
 - Original joists supporting the first floor.

- All elements related to the construction and style of the smoke house, including:
 - brick construction;
 - roof and roofline;
 - door and door opening; and,
 - interior features, including: interior slats of the ceiling and attached hooks.

Photos



1478 Trussler Road

6.2.10 1478 Trussler Road

Legal description: Lot 145 G.C.T.

Types of heritage resources: Former farmhouse and smoke house

Historic/associative value: Thomas Trussler, as son of George Trussler and a brother of George Gilbert (see section 6.2.7), purchased Lot 145 G.C.T. from his father in 1861 and replaced the small log house where he had lived at the corner of Huron and Trussler Roads (later moved and inhabited by George G.) with a larger log building on his new property. A family photograph shows that by *circa* 1880 the house had been covered with wood or brick siding (characteristically stuccoed under the front verandah; behind the house one can just glimpse a back kitchen wing (figure 66). Thomas's daughter Alicia bought the farm from her father in 1891, and she and her sister Minnie lived there and managed the farm until 1899, racking up a toll of notorious rumours in the process: racing a sulky up and down the lane, holding dances in the implement shed, and smacking the lazy hired man while he was still in bed. Alicia sold the farm in 1899, and

Nancy Z. Tausky
Heritage Consultant

for the next couple of decades it was tenanted or owned by a number of different persons. In 1917 Oscar Trussler bought the farm, and in 1934, Oscar's son Robert and his wife moved into his great-uncle's house. It stayed in the Trussler family until recently sold to the Karen and Gordon Doehn.



Figure 65: The house at 1478 Trussler Road c. 1880, viewed from the southwest. On the porch are Hannah and Thomas Trussler and their daughters Lizzie and Emmeline.

Design/physical value:

The exterior appearance of the house has undergone many changes since the 1880 (see figure 66). It was probably in the late nineteenth century that a front gable with a lancet window was added. In 1949 the verandah was removed, the present sun porch added, and the entire house covered with insulbrick. The house has since been covered with grey aluminum siding and the lancet window in the gable replaced by a rectangular sash window. At some point an additional room was built south of the back kitchen, and a back extension was built to the north. A garage and sitting room were built onto the east side of the house.

Inside, however, the house retains almost all of its original features and much of its original character. The fireplace wall of the old kitchen is largely intact, with its original mantelpiece, bake oven, warming oven with cabinet above the warming oven (figure 67). The house retains its simple, single board door and window surrounds, its chair and picture rails, the wainscot in the present dining room, its wide floorboards, and its

original doors (some of which are panelled and some of which, in less public areas, are formed of vertical planks (see, for example, figure 68).



Figure 66: The house at 1478 Trussler Road



Figure 67: Mantle and ovens, 1478 Trussler Road



Figure 68: Door, door casing, and wainscot in the dining room

The other highly significant building on the property is the brick smoke house (figure 69), just behind the garage. A small rectangular building with a gable roof, the smoke

Nancy Z. Tausky
Heritage Consultant

house retains its original door and hardware and, inside, its original wood slat ceiling and even the hooks for holding the meat being smoked (figure 70).



Figure 69: Smoke house, 1478 Trussler Road



Figure 70: Interior view of smoke house

Contextual value:

There is nothing left of the barn or of any outbuildings connected with the historic farming operations of the property, which were located across the lane, south of the house. The house still has a clearly rural setting, however, surrounded by fields and, east of the house, the large apple orchard.

Preliminary list of heritage attributes:

- Original log structure of the house and its first cladding
- Original window and door apertures
- Interior fireplace and the fittings, including the ovens, in the fireplace wall
- Original floorboards
- Original interior doors
- Original baseboards, casings, and wainscotting
- Joists supporting first floor
- Stone foundation
- Walls and silhouette of the smoke house
- Slats of smoke house ceiling and attached hooks

Evaluation:

This property 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 because of the rarity of its well preserved smokehouse, because of the equally rare integrity of its once representative interior

Nancy Z. Tausky
Heritage Consultant

fittings, and because of its log construction. It has historical value because of its connection with the Trussler family and its potential for yielding information that contributes to an understanding of the community and its historical culture. It has contextual value because it helps to define and support the character of the area and because it is physically and historically linked to its surroundings.