

Heritage Designation Recommendations

JUNE 27, 2024

Cemeteries

Gilgal Cemetery

Located on County Road 11 between the 5th and 6th Concessions

Gilgal was a predominantly Black village. Fugitive slaves who landed at Amherstburg and travelled along the Pike Rd. in the early 1840s.

The community was centered around the BME Church. It was built in 1852 on land donated by Nasa McCurdy.

The community erected a brick school on in 1897, to replace the original school, using funds provided by Hiram Walker.

Delos R. Davis taught at the school and inventor Elijah McCoy was reportedly one of the early pupils of this school.

There are very few headstones remaining on the property, due to continuous vandalism and destruction of the markers throughout the 19th and 20th centuries



Recommended for Designation

(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.

- The property is the only remaining part of the Gilgal settlement
- Has a connection to Hiram Walker as he helped fund a school for the community and owned land that surrounded the community
- Connection to Delos R. Davis, who taught at the school before he became a lawyer – showcases the connection that Black settlements had to one another throughout Essex County

(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.

- The property provides evidence to the development of the Gilgal settlement and its association with Black families across Windsor and Essex County – Taylor, Harris, Day, Banks, Etc.

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

- Physically linked to its surroundings as the last remaining part of the Gilgal settlement

Ferriss Cemetery

Located on Ferriss Road between the 3rd Concession and County Road 20 E

The land was initially settled by Joseph Ferriss and his wife, Catherine Hahn, in the mid 1790s, and features headstones that range from the 1820s until the early twentieth century.

East Harrow was a small hamlet located at the junction of the Third Concession and Ferriss Rd., and housed a small school, a small Methodist church, and various small shops, such as a grist mill, an inn, a blacksmiths shop.

The final resting place of John Ferriss - the first Reeve of Colchester Township. He would sit as one of 28 members of the Western District Council that met in Sandwich from 1842 to 1849



Recommended for Designation

(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.

- It is connected to the Ferriss family – one of the original settler families in the area and the first to settle on the 3rd concession
- The final resting place of several members from the Ferriss family – including John Ferriss, Joesph Ferriss, and Catherine Hohn Ferriss (who are missing gravestones)

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

- It is historically linked to its surroundings as the final resting place of several members of the Ferriss family and as it resides on the original lands that were purchased by Joseph and Catherine Ferriss following their settlement
- The property is connected to the settlement of East Harrow

Harrow

22 King St. W I.O.O.F Building

The Oddfellows of Harrow were established in the early 1880s, receiving their charter on May 15, 1894.

The Harrow Lodge #309 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows' hall was dedicated on Nov. 21, 1894. They first met in Foresters Hall (on King Stret W).

The building on the corner of King and Queen St. burnt down in the early 1900s and the lot remained vacant for 10 years. In 1912, due to their civic pride and desire to maintain the character of Harrow's downtown, the Oddfellows would institute a Labor Day Celebration to raise funds to allow them to purchase it.

The building was designed by Thomas Jenner in September 1912, and construction was officially started in 1915 and finished in 1916.



Recommended for Designation

(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.

- Connection to the Independent Order of Odd Fellow branch #309

(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.

- Thomas Jenner – an architect from Kingsville, who was active in the late 19th and into the early 20th century. Also designed the Harrow Methodist Church in 1893 (Harrow United)

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

- Maintains and supports the character of the surrounding area through its architectural style reflecting the style of Harrow's downtown core