

# Property Evaluations

Heritage Evaluation to Add Properties of Interest  
to the Registry

Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee  
2022



## 795 Brant Street

Ghent House/Farm (Maple Lodge), 1854  
West House, 1921 (addition to the house)

### Introduction:

Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee (HBAC) received an email correspondence from one of Ghent's descendants noting that the family house will be demolished for a new development and urging the preservation of the family's and Burlington's heritage. A pre-application meeting was scheduled for the property on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Heritage Burlington was not invited to comment on the development since the building is currently not on the Municipal Register. Research revealed that this was previously rated as an A building and past city staff had reviewed the building and considered it worthy of designation. As such, HBAC prioritized the evaluation of the property especially as it was removed from the Municipal Register in 2015.

The document presents the evaluation of the property, current status documentation, resources, and the recommendation to put the property back on the Register.



*795 Brant street house from Brant,  
Burlington Historical Society Archive, 2004*

## Evaluation Inquiries

AS per Ontario Heritage Act, Reg. 09/06

*A property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:*

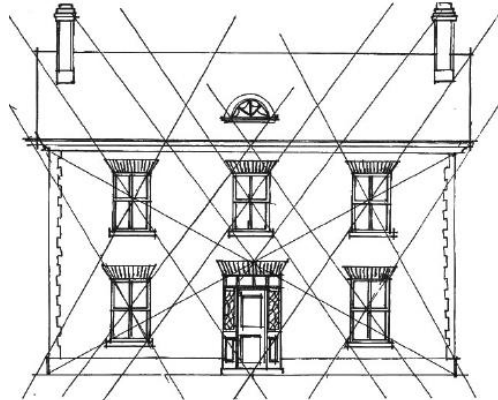
## 1- Design and Physical Value:

- Does the building demonstrate a unique specific architectural style, type? **YES**
- Does it reflect a high degree of craftsmanship? **YES**

The research data was gathered from different resources including, Burlington Historical Society website, HB website, Gazette articles, and HBAC Site visit.

The building is a fine example of farmhouses that were built in the 19C. Attributes include, but are not limited to, two-storey brick building with high pitch gabled roof. The façade facing Brant street has symmetrical three-bay façade. The door in the middle has detailed wood surround. Windows have voussoirs in all elevations. Two brick chimneys at each end. Hand crafted decorative exposed rafters were removed between the google earth image and the image taken by Heritage Burlington in March 2022. Rafters, as well as, the windows shutters were removed but traces of their existence are clear from the differences of paint colour.

The home construction is associated with the famous Bent Brothers. Jabez Bent is also credited for building the Historical Union Burying Ground around 1884.



*Expert from Keeping Place Heritage-based Urban Design Guidelines for Downtown Burlington*

Geometry governed most heritage design. In this example, the diagonals of the window openings relate to significant elements in the elevation and to each other. The diagonals of the main wall relate to the windows and front-door keystone, as well.

If a building is pleasing to the eye, it is probably rich in such relationships.



*795 Brant street house from Brant, HBAC, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2022*

## 2- Historic and Associated Value:

- Is the building old compared to the context in the neighbour or province? 100 years or more? **YES**
- Did the property have an association with a significant historic activity, contribution, event? **YES**
- Did a person significant to the community lived in this house or stayed? **YES**

The research data was gathered from different resources including, Burlington Historical Society website, HB website, Gazette articles, and HBAC Site visit on March 8, 2022.

Thomas Ghent and his Family were early settlers of Burlington. In 1804, he purchased land from Joseph Brant and became one of the founding families at Wellington Square. For 150 years, the Ghent family farmed continuously in Burlington.

The Maple Lodge Homestead was built by the Bent Brothers (Jabez - a brickmaker, George - a mason, and James - a carpenter) in 1854. This house and its farm were purchased in 1859 by Frederick Bray and sold in 1896 to William Ghent (fifth generation). When he retired from farming in 1909, Ghent divided the farm, including what is now Ghent Avenue, into parcel lots. This house and its lot were bought by Edward Harmon and his sons, market gardeners in 1909. In 1919, the West family bought the property and they built additions to the house in 1921. The photos show the original farm house built-in 1854 and the additions in the early 1900s.

The house was a residence for the Alphonse Brooks family from ca. 1935 to 1975, when it was converted to commercial use.

*795 Brant street house from Prospect,  
HBAC, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2022*



### 3- Contextual Value:

- Is the building 'location and settings' important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area?
- Is the building in its location considered a landmark? **YES**
- Does the building support sense of belonging and orientation for the community? **YES**

The research data was gathered from different resources including, Burlington Historical Society website, HB website, Gazette articles, and HBAC site visit.















The building is a landmark in its location along the intersections of Brant and Prospect Streets. It provides orientation both along Brant Street and within the Prospect Street neighbourhood. An early representation of farm buildings, this recognizable property fosters a sense of belonging within the community.

*“....the West/Thomas House is a valuable landmark reminder of the farming origins of this area.”*

*Heritage Burlington Website*

*795 Brant street house from Brant,  
HBAC, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2022*



ASPECTS OF THE SOURCES	DIMENSION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Artistic	Historic	Social	Scientific
Form & Design				
Building Materials & Substance				
Use & Function				
Tradition, Techniques, & Workmanship				
Location & Setting				
Spirit & Feeling				

## Evaluation Summary and recommendation:

As seen in the **evaluation inquiries** sections as per the **Ontario Heritage Act reg. 09/06**, the house has attributes that relates to Design & Physical, Historical, and Contextual Criteria. Any reply with “YES” to any of the criteria inquiries would consider the building a good candidate for designation. Also as presented in the **heritage brief schedule**, the property is exhibiting heritage values in the Historic, Architecture, and Social (community) dimensions that relates to different aspects such as design& form, building material, workmanship, location and settings, and its contribution to the community sense of belonging and orientation. Filling any area on the schedule with a dot could qualify the building to have heritage value of interest. As shown the schedule is almost full of positive indicative of heritage values.

On the architectural/design level, the 2-story building brick building is an early fine representation of the farmhouse in Burlington. Some heritage attributes have been removed or changed such as painting the bricks and removing of the decorative handmade rafters and windows shutters, however, all these changes are reversible and does not change the building’s heritage value. The building’s existing massing, gabled roof, chimneys, window & door proportions, locations, and voussoirs are great representations of the architectural heritage value of the building. Also, the change of use from residential to commercial did not change the value of the heritage building.

On the Historic level, the house was built in 1854 by the Bent Brothers, well-known trades people and is associated with prominent families such as Ghent family, early settlers and farmers, John and Elizabeth West, also farmers, and others. Sensitive additions implemented in early 1900s also contribute to the house’s architectural and historical attributes.

On the contextual level, the house is a landmark in its location, and it contributes to the community’s sense of belonging and orientation.

In conclusion, HBAC considers 795 Brant street property as a valuable heritage asset and recommends adding it to the Municipal Register as a non-designated property. The building is a prominent heritage component that could be homogeneously integrated within a successful development application.

<b>Reviewed By:</b>	<b>Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee</b>
Date:	March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Recommendation:	Add to Register: YES ( <input checked="" type="radio"/> ) NO ( <input type="radio"/> )
Reason:	Valuable Design & Physical, Historical, and Contextual Values
Heritage elements of interest:	Early representation of Farm house, Architecture Craftsmanship, Associated with Ghent Family & Maison Jobez Bent, and a landmark
HB Meeting Motion to Add to Register:	Date: March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
	Carried: YES ( <input checked="" type="radio"/> ) NO ( <input type="radio"/> )

## Documentations:







## References:

Armstrong, L. (2004), The Burlington Historical Society. *795 Brant Street, "Maple Lodge", 2004*. Retrieved March 5th, 2022 from [http://burlingtonhistorycollection.bpl.on.ca:8080/vital/access/manager/Repository/bpl:205442?site\\_name=GlobalView](http://burlingtonhistorycollection.bpl.on.ca:8080/vital/access/manager/Repository/bpl:205442?site_name=GlobalView)

Heritage Burlington. *The West House*. Retrieved on March 5th, 2022 from [https://heritageburlington.ca/heritage\\_property/the-west-house/](https://heritageburlington.ca/heritage_property/the-west-house/)

Heritage Burlington. *The West House*. Retrieved on March 5th, 2022 from [https://heritageburlington.ca/heritage\\_property/the-union-burying-grounds/](https://heritageburlington.ca/heritage_property/the-union-burying-grounds/)

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Parr, P. (2015). *How does a community choose between its heritage and the need to intensify and at the same time treat the owners of property with the respect they deserve and ensure that their property rights are protected?. Burlington Gazette*, retrieved on March 5th, 2022 from <https://burlingtongazette.ca/how-does-a-community-choose-between-its-heritage-and-the-need-to-intensify-and-at-the-same-time-treat-the-owners-of-property-with-the-respect-they-deserve-and-ensure-that-their-property-rights-are-pro/>

Parr, P. (2016). *Historical burial ground opened to the public during Open Doors last Saturday. Burlington Gazette*, retrieved on March 5th, 2022 from <https://burlingtongazette.ca/historical-burial-ground-opened-to-the-public-during-open-doors-last-saturday/>

Reeves, W. (1971), The Burlington Historical Society. *795 Brant Street, "Maple Lodge", 1971*. Retrieved March 5th, 2022 from [http://burlingtonhistorycollection.bpl.on.ca:8080/vital/access/manager/Repository/bpl:205552?site\\_name=GlobalView](http://burlingtonhistorycollection.bpl.on.ca:8080/vital/access/manager/Repository/bpl:205552?site_name=GlobalView)

## To Owner/Occupant Pre-application Consultation Virtual Meeting

MacNaughton Hermesen Britton Clarkson Planning Limited ("MHBC") and RAW Design are hosting a pre-application community meeting to discuss the proposed redevelopment of the site located at 789-795 Brant Street in Downtown Burlington. A site location map is shown below.

The Virtual Pre-Application  
Community Meeting will take place:

October 21, 2021  
7:00 to 9:00 pm

Participate On-Line via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84813893643>

Or find link at:

[www.burlington.ca/789brant](http://www.burlington.ca/789brant)

Webinar ID: 848 1389 3643

Participate by Telephone:  
+1 647 374 4685



Site Location Map: 789-795 Brant Street

For more information, visit

[www.burlington.ca/789brant](http://www.burlington.ca/789brant)

### The Proposed Redevelopment

The proposed concept for redevelopment of the Subject Lands currently provides for a mixed use development consisting of one residential tower containing 307 residential units, ground floor retail at the base of the tower to the west and 3 ground-level townhome units integrated into the building to the east. The proposed development will have a mix of 1-bedroom plus den, 2-bedroom, and 3-bedroom units. The proposed development includes a podium with a height of 7 storeys facing Brant Street. The townhome built form, with frontage along Prospect Street, will reflect the building height of the neighbouring apartment development to the east.

### The Process

The community meeting will provide an opportunity for the project team to present an overview of the current proposal and gather input from the community before submitting any formal development applications. It will also provide an opportunity for the project team to respond to questions regarding the proposal and the process.

## The Format

The meeting will be held using a zoom webinar format. Burlington City Staff will provide an overview of the development application review process and explain how the public may participate as the development process advances. The consulting team for the project will provide an overview of the proposal and there will be an opportunity for questions and input of comments.

Additional comments, questions, and feedback can be directed to [info@mhbcplan.com](mailto:info@mhbcplan.com)



**Conceptual** Rendering of 789 and 795 Brant Street Proposal, viewed from the northwest. Rendering includes nearby proposed buildings for reference.

# 795 Brant Street, "Maple Lodge", 1971

795 Brant Street, "Maple Lodge", 1971



# 795 Brant Street, "Maple Lodge", 2004

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**795 Brant Street**

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**Title**

795 Brant Street, "Maple Lodge", 2004

**Creator**

Les Armstrong

**Subject**

Houses

**Date**

2004

**Type**

Image

**Identifier**

bpl:205442

**Description**

The Burlington Historical Society Plaque is not shown., Built by Jabez Bent in 1854. This house and its farm were purchased in 1859 by Frederick Bray and sold in 1896 to William Ghent. In 1909 Ghent divided the farm, including what is now Ghent Avenue, into parcel lots. This house and its lot were bought by Edward Harmon and his sons, market gardeners. The house was a residence for the Alphonse Brooks family from ca. 1935 to 1975, when it was converted to commercial use., 43.3307,-79.8064

**Format**

JPEG

**Language**

EN

**Rights**

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**Source**

The Burlington Historical Society

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# How does a community choose between its heritage and the need to intensify and at the same time treat the owners of property with the respect they deserve and ensure that their property rights are protected?

By Pepper Parr

May 23, 2015

**NEWS**

**BURLINGTON, ON**

How does a community choose between its heritage and the need to intensify and at the same time treat the owners of property in the downtown core with the respect they deserve and ensure that their rights as property owners are protected?

Burlington has lost a lot of its heritage properties. The city seems to have a problem with wanting to keep buildings that reflect the character of the city as it went through its various development phases.

It was the citizens and two members of city council (both first term members) that saved the Freeman station from becoming kindling for a fire place.

The city has a deep rich history as the “garden of Canada” that many people are unaware of and something that is never celebrated.

That history could be used to create a more acute awareness of the past and use that to build an identity that is more than a magazine’s definition of Burlington as the best mid-sized city in Canada.

Burlington city councils’ have always had difficulty with fighting to save properties that have heritage value.



View of the old Ghent farmhouse from Brant Street at the corner of Ghent Street.

There is a property on Brant Street that has very significant historical value that is part of a small land assembly. The property is currently on the municipal registry of historically significant properties and has been given an A rating.

The owner of the property wrote the planning department advising they wished to have their property removed from the registry. Sixty days after such a request the city has to either seek to have the property designated as historical under the Planning Act or issue a demolition permit if one is requested.

The question becomes – is this property significant enough to be designated?

A Staff report put on the May 11th Development and Infrastructure agenda but pulled when the issue it was related to was withdrawn by the owners of property at 795 Brant.

The Planning and Building Department received a written request to remove the property from the Municipal Heritage Register to allow the demolition of the farmhouse. If the city does not take a position within the 60 day period, a demolition permit must be granted.

Council must make a decision as to whether to designate the property pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act in order to protect it from demolition or to remove the property from the Municipal Register to allow its demolition.

With the request to have the building taken of the municipal register withdrawn the matter is moot – but this issue will be back before Council in the not too distant future.

This request is being made to facilitate redevelopment of the subject property in conjunction with 789 Brant Street.

The Staff Direction set out in the report that was withdrawn makes it clear where the Planning department wants to go – that may not be where city council wants to go – and it is the elected officials who make the final decision.

People acting for the property owner are believed to have lined up the four votes on council they need to vote against the Staff recommendation.



A wider view of the former Ghent Farmhouse and its neighbours today.



A rear view of the former Ghent farmhouse – numerous additions have changed the look of the building – have those additions made the structure any less significant historically?

Staff asked that the city “State an intention to designate the house and property at 795 Brant Street, Burlington, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act.



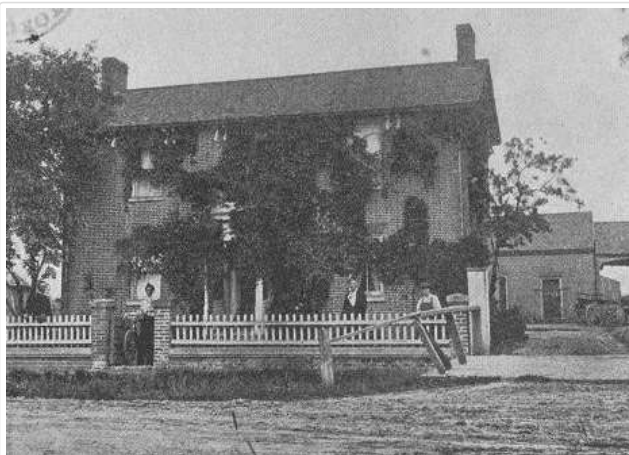
The developer assembling the property and representing the owner is reported to have lined up at least four council votes. Which of these four are onside for the destruction of the house?

“Authorize the City Clerk to present the Designation By-law to Council to designate the property at 795 Brant Street, Burlington, pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act if there are no objections to the statement of intention to designate in accordance with Section the Act and

“Authorize the City Clerk to take necessary action in the event that there are any objections in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

The property has always been seen as historically significant. It was given an “A” grade when it was evaluated by Heritage Burlington in 1995, and later re-evaluated with the same “A” grade in 2003.

Additionally, in 2014, Heritage Burlington retained a consultant to conduct a review of all formerly graded “A” properties on the Municipal Register to determine if they still belong on the Municipal Register. The recent review of the subject property by the consultant provided a grade of 82/100 (based on Heritage Burlington’s newly created “Evaluation Criteria”), and it was recommended it remain on the Municipal Heritage Register.

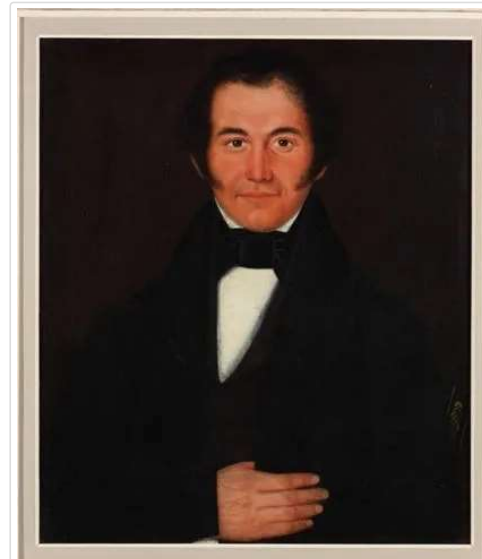


Maple Lodge was built in 1854 by the Bent brothers, Jabez a brick maker, George a mason, and James a carpenter. George Ghent and his family lived for many years at Maple Lodge. The non-designated 161 year old historic home is in jeopardy of potential demolition, due mostly in part to the intensification policy of the Ontario Government. Maple Lodge is located at 795 Brant Street on the south east corner. This is how the home looked in 1902. Today, it is a commercial property.

Currently, the property is within the boundary of “Downtown Growth Area” in the Official Plan; and zoned as “MXG” – “Mixed-Use Corridor Zone”.

The Planning department maintains that the “Maple Lodge” or “William Ghent House” or “Bray-Ghent Farmhouse” is a good example of an early vernacular style farmhouse; and is associated with the early farming in Burlington. “The house is significant as it provides the evidence of Burlington’s past. In addition, it has other important contextual, historical / associative, and physical/design values.”

One of the first families to settle in Brant’s Block was the Ghent Family. They had originally come to North America from Wales, settling in Maryland, then moving to North Carolina. As sympathizers with the British during the American Revolution, they were severely persecuted.



The Reverend David Ghent was a brother to George Ghent and another son of Thomas Ghent and Elizabeth Davis. Rev. Ghent was instrumental in aiding William Lyon Mackenzie’s escape to the United States. Historically that was a very significant event. If this were the United States the house would have been saved years ago.

Thomas Ghent came to Canada with his wife’s family, the Davises, and was one of the early settlers in Saltfree Township. In true pioneering spirit, he purchased land from Joseph Brant in 1804, and became one of the founding families at Wellington Square. For 150 years, members of the Ghent family farmed continuously in Burlington.

The two-storey brick farmhouse was built in 1854 by Jabez Bent, who is also believed to have constructed the wall around the Union Burying Grounds and the Calvary Baptist Church (1446 Ontario Street). Bent sold the house and its farm to Frederick Bray in 1859, and in 1896, the property was bought

by William Ghent, who was the fifth generation descendant of Thomas Ghent. In 1909, Ghent divided the farm, including Ghent Avenue, into parcel lots. This house and its lot were bought by Edward Harmon and his sons in 1909. The house was a residence for the Alphonse Brooks family from 1935 to 1975, when it was converted to commercial use.

The Planning department describes the house as the last farmhouse in the area and is a landmark along Brant Street. The house is on its original location; and structure in the context of the neighbourhood and downtown. The house is now surrounded by mix of land uses, such as, residential, commercial and mixed-use

developments, and various architectural designed buildings.

"The "William Ghent Farmhouse" is a two-storey solid brick structure with end gable roof, and features symmetrical three-bay façade and rear additions.

"The multiple rear additions were likely added over the years as the family grew. The rear and side additions feature gable roofs. The central door at the front façade has a detailed wood surround. Other architectural elements of the house include brick chimneys at the two ends of the gable roof of the original house; wide overhanging eaves and paired brackets under the eaves of the original house; and wooden window frames on the ground floor front façade and on both floors of the north-east side façade highlighted by wooden voussairs."

"There have been minor changes to the heritage attributes but the original character is retained. Visible changes to the building include painting of the brick façade, asphalt roof shingles, commercial signs, and windows and shutters have been replaced by aluminium framed single-hung one over one windows.

"Additional chimneys and skylights have been added. The rear yard of the property has been entirely paved to accommodate parking spaces and a driveway for commercial use, with the exception of shrub and coniferous trees to the side yards and lawn immediately in front of the house.

These are not minor changes by any stretch of one's imagination.

The planners argue that "architecturally, the front façade and north-east side of the "William Ghent Farmhouse" is the most significant.

From a historical or associative perspective, the property satisfies the criteria for designation. Staff is of the opinion that the house is historically tied to its surroundings as the development around it (including Ghent Street) was part of the original farm.

"Staff does acknowledge that the house has been converted from its original purpose as a residence to commercial use. Nevertheless, they are of the the opinion that despite the alterations to the building and site, the property has retained much of its original character and fabric.

"The demolition of this unique style farmhouse would mean a significant loss of the property's historic and cultural heritage values. Each heritage property that is lost incrementally undermines the city's ability to understand and celebrate its past through tangible physical resources.



Lower Rant Street with two of the downtown core's most historically significant structures. Would these two buildings ever be asked to meet with a wrecking ball?

request to be removed the municipal registry those suggested discussions can now take place.

If the property were to be designated it would be eligible to apply to the Community Heritage Fund for eligible restoration project. This would cover up to 25% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$15,000.

Burlington's Heritage Property Tax Rebate program could also be available to the owners of the property. Currently, the program is only for residential uses in accordance with the recommendation of Heritage Burlington in its 2012 report, A New Approach to Conserving Burlington's Heritage, a commercial component will be explored for the 2016 tax year.



There apparently isn't going to be a formal public consultation, however, both Heritage Burlington and staff visited the property and it is on the |Heritage Advisory committee's agenda.

Should Council eventually accept staff's recommendation to state its intention to designate 795 Brant Street, the Ontario Heritage Act requires that notice of the intention be given to the City Clerk, and that notice be served on the owner of the property; the Ontario Heritage Trust; and published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City.

What does all this mean to the people who own the property and want to sell it and take their profit and move on?

What does this mean top the developer who is assembling the property and planning a project that will fall well within the Official Plan and the applicable zoning bylaw?

How does a community choose between its heritage and the need to intensify and at the same time treat the owners of property in the downtown core with the respect they deserve and ensure their rights as property owners are pro

**Background:**

Burlington's Official Plan contains a number of policies related to the conservation of cultural heritage resources calling for the city to protect, improve and manage its cultural heritage resources in a manner that furthers the heritage objectives of this Plan and sets an example of leadership for the community in the conservation of cultural heritage resources. Cultural heritage conservation planning shall be an integral part of the land use planning process in the City of Burlington.

There are apparently other options. Staff suggests there is a third option which is to enter into discussion with the property owner and recommend that the request for demolition be withdrawn until such time as a comprehensive review of options including the demolition, conservation and incorporation or partial conservation of the house be explored.

City staff recommended that the property not be removed from the Municipal Register to facilitate demolition and that Council state its intention to designate the property. With the withdrawal of the

## Historical burial ground opened to the public during Open Doors last Saturday.

By Pepper Parr

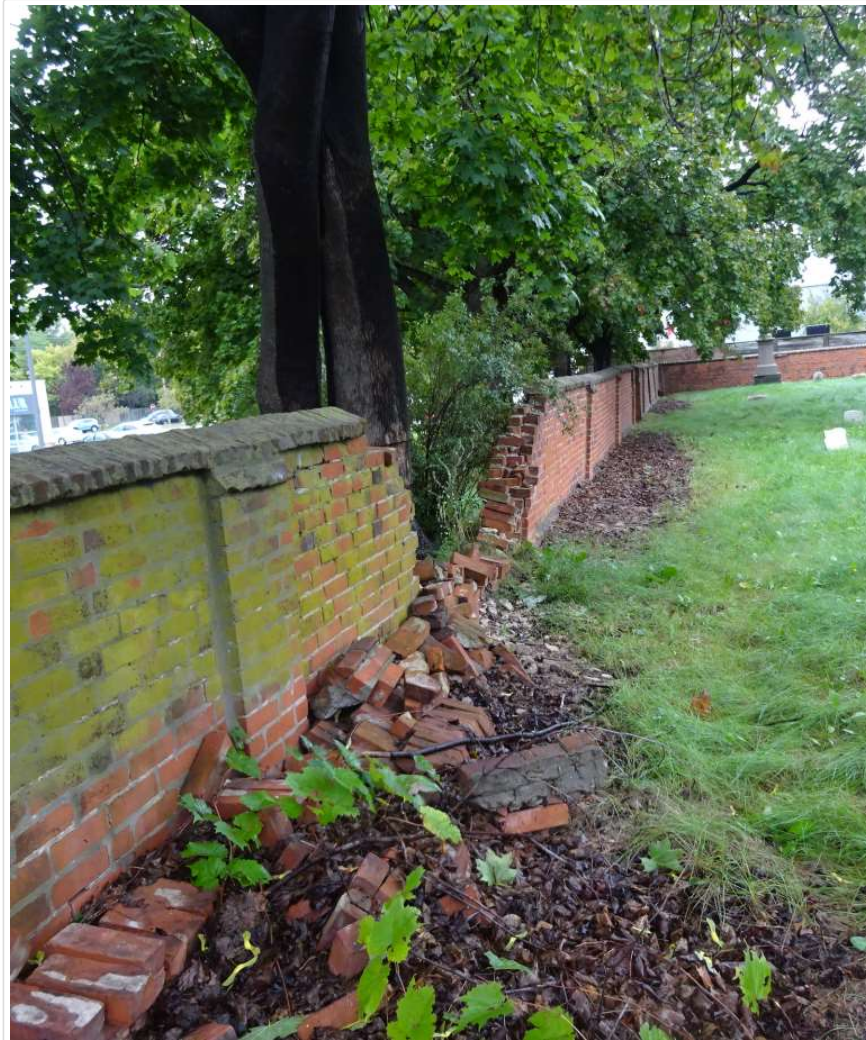
October 4th, 2016

NEWS

BURLINGTON, ON

I'd heard about it; drove by the place hundreds of times, knew what it was but had never had a chance to actually go into the place.

It was the Union Burial grounds on Plains Road established in 1848 by ten pioneer families who were members of the Methodist Union.



A brick wall, first built around 1882 to enclose the Union Burial grounds, now needs both renovation and repair

The chief architectural feature is the fine brick wall surrounding the 138-by 104-foot burying ground. The wall was built around 1882 by brick mason Jabez Bent. There are also fine wrought iron gates at the front and side. The memorial markers commemorate some of the earliest pioneers in this area.

The site was originally farm land owned by Asahel Davis, a Methodist, a community who wanted burying grounds separate from those established by the Anglican Church at St Luke's and St John's. Religious differences were a big deal in those days.

The families holding plots in the Union cemetery were major contributors to the early growth, prosperity, and well-being of Nelson and the Village of Wellington Square which are parts of what we know as Burlington today.

The Baxter's, the Crosby's, the Cummins's, the Davis's, the Fisher's, the Gage's, the Galloway's, the Ghent's, the Kerns's and the Pearl's – the families whose names identify many of our streets created their own cemetery.

It is quite run down these days. The families moved on and there aren't that many descendants of its founders around to continue to manage and maintain this historic burial place.

The brick wall is, sadly, in need of restoration. The wrought iron gates and original name plaque also date from 1888. The grave markers are invaluable historic records and also merit preservation. This cemetery feels especially unique given it's setting of urban development.

"The families who created this cemetery came to Canada during the American Revolution. They were British and chose to remain part of the British Empire in North America. The Americans were in the process of creating their own country, there were just 13 colonial states at the time, who didn't want the British imposing taxes on them. Out of the struggle

between the Thirteen Colonies and their mother country emerged two nations: the United States and what would later become Canada.

"Those that left the colonies became known as The United Empire Loyalists who wanted to remain faithful to the Crown and wished to continue living in the New World. Therefore, they left their homes to settle eventually in what remained of British North America.

For many years after those people would put the letters UE after their names – United Empire. Many of the markers in the Union Burial ground have those letters on the stones.

"The Loyalists came from every class and walk of life. Some depended on the Crown for their livelihood and status and had considerable wealth and property. Many were farmers and craftsmen. There were clerks and clergymen, lawyers and labourers, soldiers and slaves, Native Americans, college graduates, and people who could not write their own names. Recent immigrants from Europe also tended to support the Crown.

"They had little in common but their opposition to the revolution. Their reasons for becoming Loyalists were as varied as their backgrounds. Some had strong ties with Britain: others had simply supported what turned out to be the losing side. Local incidents, fear of change, self-interest, political principles, emotional bonds – one or any combination of these influenced their decision to remain loyal to the Crown. The common thread that linked these groups was a distrust of too much democracy which they believed resulted in mob rule and an accompanying breakdown of law and order. The Mather Byles mused, "Which is better – to be ruled by one tyrant three thousand miles away or by three thousand tyrants one mile away?" Loyalists



The Ghent's were prominent farmers in Burlington. Both Thomas and his wife Elizabeth rest in the Union Burial grounds.

believed that the British connection guaranteed them a more secure and prosperous life than republicanism would.

“Historians estimate that ten to fifteen per cent of the population of the Thirteen Colonies – some 250,000 people opposed the revolution; some passively, others by speaking out, spying, or fighting against the rebels. Approximately 70,000 Loyalists fled the Thirteen Colonies with roughly 50,000 settling in British North America.

“Of less practical value than land and supplies, but of more lasting significance to the Loyalists and their descendants, was the government’s recognition of the stand that they had taken. Realizing the importance of some type of consideration, on November 9, 1789, Lord Dorchester, the governor of Quebec, declared “that it was his Wish to put the mark of Honour upon the Families who had adhered to the Unity of the Empire...” As a result of Dorchester’s statement, the printed militia rolls carried the notation: U.E., alluding to their great principle The Unity of the Empire.

“Those initials “U.E.” are rarely seen today, but the influence of the Loyalists on the evolution of Canada remains. Their ties with Britain and their antipathy to the United States provided the strength needed to keep Canada independent and distinct in North America.

“In the two centuries since the Loyalists’ arrival, the myths and realities of their heritage have intertwined to have a powerful influence on how we, as Canadians, see ourselves. Truly, the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists not only changed the course of Canadian history by prompting the British government to establish the provinces of New Brunswick and Ontario, but it also gave them special characteristics which can be seen today. Perhaps the most striking of these is the motto on the Ontario coat of arms: *Ut incepit Fidelis sic permanet* that is, “Loyal she began, Loyal she remains.”

One of the people telling the story of the Union Burial grounds on Saturday was Stephen Davis, a surveyor who works for the Region; his descendants are buried on the grounds.

“We restored the rear wall and we will re-build the west wall. Trees planted too close to the wall grew and pushed over the brick work. It is a lot of work and we don’t have that much time – we are busy raising our family’s and some of the families buried here have moved on” said Davis.

Davis is working on some ideas on how young people can develop an interest in their ancestry and take part in the rehabilitation of a significant part of Burlington’s history.

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**[Does the Ghent house on Brant Street at Ghent matter historically?](#)**

***Large portion of this report came from a document written by Ann Mackenzie M.A.***

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The smaller markers recognize members of the family – several for children that died at a very young age.

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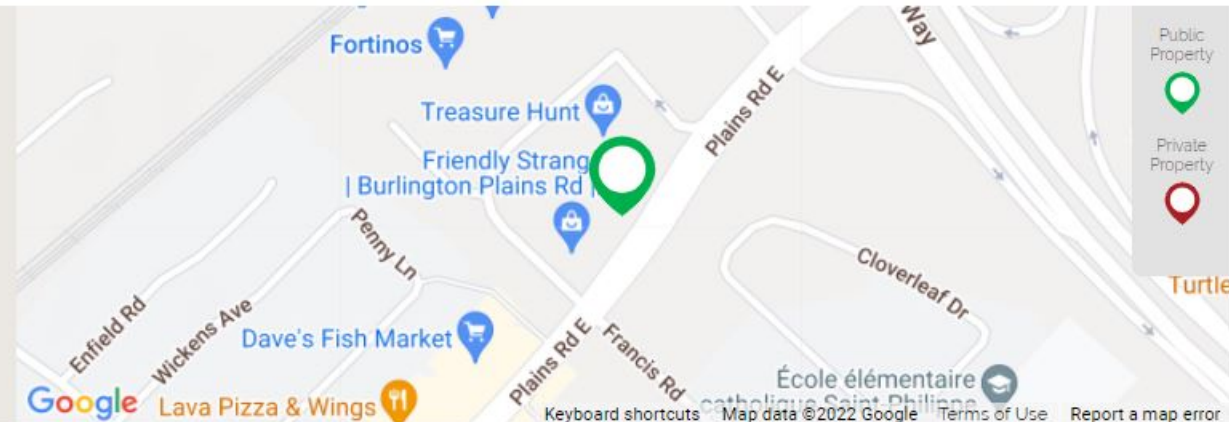
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## The Union Burying Grounds

Established in 1848 on a portion of the Asahel Davis farm, the Union Burying Grounds was founded by ten pioneer families who were members of the Methodist Union. The families holding plots here were major contributors to the early growth, prosperity, and well-being of Nelson and the Village of Wellington Square: Baxter, Crosby, Cummins, Davis, Fisher, Gage, Galloway, Ghent, Kerns, and Pearl. Almost 150 years later, the descendants of its founders continue to manage and maintain this historic burial place. The fine brick wall was built in 1888 by Jabez Bent, who had been building brick houses in this area from 1850. The wrought iron gates and name plaque also date from 1888. The grave markers are invaluable historic records and merit expert conservation and preservation.

### The Union Burying Grounds

1001 Plains Rd. E  
Burlington On L7T 4K1



# The West House

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Plan 125 is the Ghent Survey, registered in 1909. In 1909 William Ghent sold Lot 3 & other land (the Ghent Farm) to Edward Harman.

The 1917 and 1918 Telephone Directories list Ed Harman, Fruit (grower), on Brant Street; he lived in the Bray – Ghent House, “Maple Lodge”, now at 795 Brant Street.

The 1919 Voters List includes E. J. Harmon [sic], E. Harmon, and John Harmon, all Gardeners, at part lot 85, Brant Street.

In 1919 Harmon sold this property to John West & his wife, Mrs J. West, as listed in the 1919 Voters List at part lot 84, Brant Street. By 1922, Ed Harmon is listed in the Telephone Directory as living on New Street, and Ned Harmon on Burlington Avenue.

John West took mortgages in 1921 & 1922, probably to build this house. In 1927 it was bought by Walter Scott Powers & wife; in 1932 by Earl Carter Thomas; in 1955 part of the lot was bought by Fred Whiskin.

William Ghent registered his development survey plan in 1909, when he sold the Ghent Farm including its historic ‘Maple Lodge’ homestead, built in 1854 (now 795 Brant Street), to the Edward Harmon family. The Harmons continued their hit growing business through 1914/15, when this rural land was annexed by the Town of Burlington, until 1919, when they sold this Lot 3 to John and Elizabeth West, who were also farmers on Brant Street. The West's built this house in 1921. In 1932 the property was sold to Earl Carter

Thomas, a nursery grower. It remained in the Thomas family's ownership for more than sixty years, when it was bought by a developer who subdivided the property, preserved this heritage house, and sold it to the present owners.

This large one-and-a-half-storey bungalow is a very fine example of the Craftsman Style. The high-pitch end-gabled roof is broken by a large gabled dormer. The decorative exposed rafter were individually cut by hand. The side gables, the front dormer gable, and a band under the eaves of the front elevation are all clad with wooden shingles. A tall brick chimney rises from the fireplace. There are many original interior Craftsman Style features. The lower level is clad with stretcher-bond brick. The windows on the front elevation are in groups of five or four, the east elevation includes an oriel window.

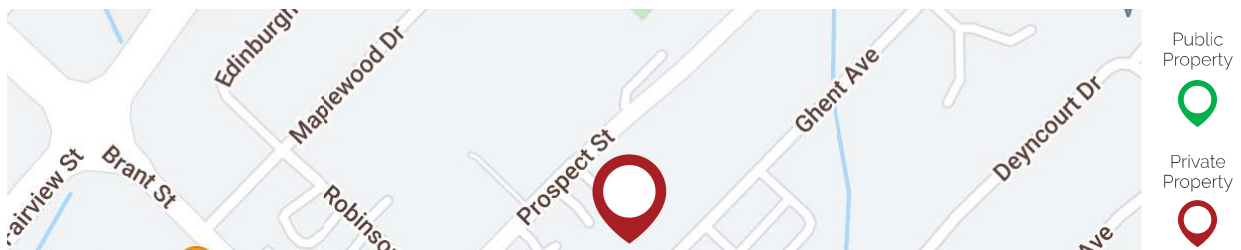
In the contemporary residential streetscape of Ghent Avenue, the West/Thomas House is a valuable landmark reminder of the farming origins of this area. The house is set on a deep lot with many vestiges of its former nursery garden use: many varieties of Euonymus wild roses and other perennials, continue to thrive on the fertile ground.

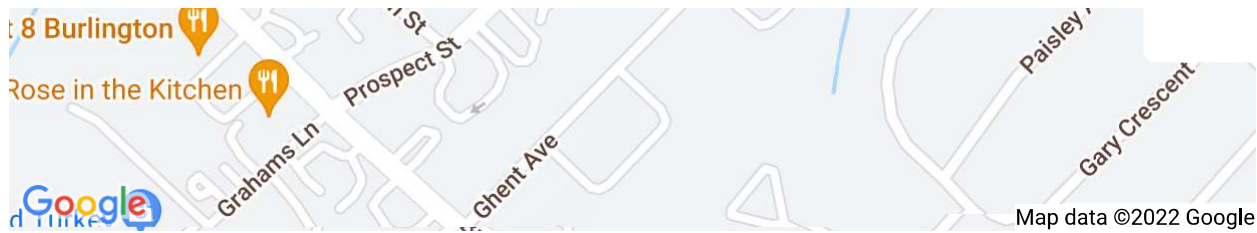
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## The West House

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2059 Ghent Ave  
Burlington On L7R 1Y4





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