



Heritage Property – *Elam Martin Farmstead*



Woolwich Street (RIM Park)

Purchase and settlement of land: 1820; construction, main house: 1856; builder: Jacob Martin; bank barn (with two-level access): 1860; doddy house, c. 1870; woodshed and toolshed, c. 1905; spring house, c. 1920

Designated Jan. 2001: bylaw 01-3, “Elam Martin Farmstead”

Elam Martin purchased lot 65 and the family migrated there in 1820 to establish the family farm.

The original log dwelling, located near the spring house, has been lost. The surviving two-storey main house, in yellow brick with a fieldstone foundation, sited facing southward, was designed in the Mennonite Georgian style. It has a gable-roof with a remarkable, quarter-round moulded brick cornice. Its kitchen affords direct access to the gardens, smoke house, schnitz house and woodshed.

Over six generations, a number of structures were added and modified. A doddy house (for elderly parents and a characteristic of Mennonite homesteads) was built adjacent to the main house.

The Martin farmstead, now 18½ acres with 17 buildings, is representative of Mennonite farms in Waterloo county and elsewhere. It evolved in order to answer the needs of old order farmers, particularly those with large families.



The Martin family farm, now owned and maintained by the City of Waterloo, preserves a real-life snapshot of farming and immigrant life, and continues to teach the early history of life in the township and city.