

Gloucester, Ontario  
**Powell House**  
Ridge Road

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Powell House was probably built in the 1880's after which it changed hands several times. It and the surrounding area was bought by the National Capital Commission in 1960 to form a part of the greenbelt around Ottawa. The house and land is now rented for farmland. The property is owned by the NCC. See FHBRO Building Report 86-51.

### **Reason for Designation**

The building was designated Recognized because of the quality of its design and construction and the continued integrity of its farmland site and setting.

The Powell House is an attractive, typical rural residence of the second half of the nineteenth century. It is a good example of a pattern book house recommended for rural rather than urban use. This is reflected in the building's broad proportions, large "footprint" to provide for more ground floor area, and, with the exception of turned details on the verandah, lack of ornament.

The exterior is enhanced by the surviving farmland around the building.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of this property is defined by the intact period appearance of the house and grounds and their interrelationship.

The house is a one-and-one-half storey design executed in brick. The façade is composed of a broad off-center gable and smaller, steeper gable, set back to one side. The verandah, a strong horizontal element, is also set-back under the small gable. Together these elements make up a façade that is asymmetrical but balanced, and more horizontal in orientation than vertical. The asymmetrical placement of window and door openings are an intrinsic part of the composition. It is important that the exterior be preserved in its present form without intrusions or deletions.

The windows and doors themselves appear to be original and should be retained or, if necessary, replaced in kind. Windows and doors of modern design would have a severe impact upon the heritage character.

Requirements for additional space could be met by constructing at the rear elevation, however considering its historical and present farm use a separate building in suitable materials and scale should be considered.

The grounds have the appearance and flavour of the period in general, if not in detail. The strong interrelationship between residence and site should be retained.

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