

From: Kevin McKague
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Fiona Hamilton; Sarah Johnson; Christine Brandt; Ted Cobean
Cc: Susan Adams
Subject: Cargill White House

Hi Fiona, Sarah, Christine and Ted,

We understand public discussion is underway on whether the historic designation of the Cargill 'White House' should be maintained.

Friends of Historic Cargill is a community non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating the history, culture and beauty of Cargill.

Attached is an article from the Herald Times from 1988 when the house was designated.

Also attached is the excerpt on the house from Ruth Cathcart's book "The Architecture of a Provincial Society: Houses of Bruce County, Ontario 1850-1900". In this book, a colour picture of the White House is featured on the back cover as well as a description on pages 66 and 65.

Both documents refer to the house as 'The White House' and both speak to its relatively rare and unique 'stick style' of architecture. Both documents also refer to the owners and others investing in restoring and preserving the house's architectural heritage.

We believe maintaining The White House's historic designation is important for many reasons:

- It protects the building from demolition or significant alterations
- It demonstrates the property's unique historical significance and helps preserve the architectural heritage of Cargill, Brockton and Bruce County
- It helps support local cultural tourism
- And it helps foster community pride in our local history and architectural heritage

For the owners of the building, designation opens opportunities to access grants for restoration, conservation and maintenance.

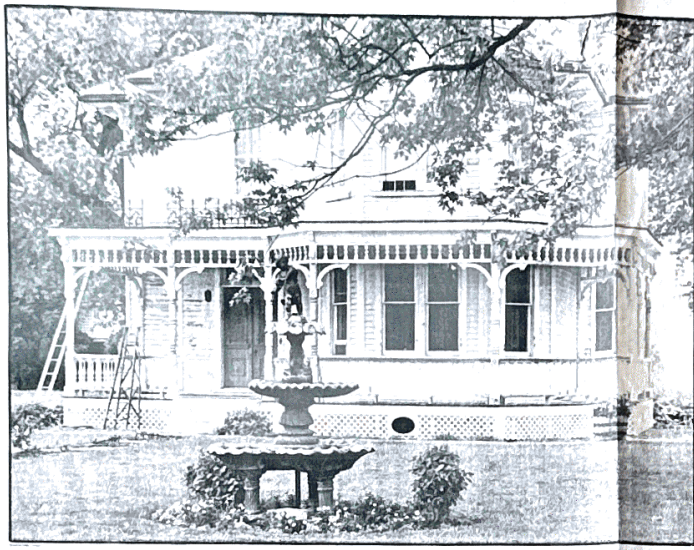
We support preserving and celebrating the history of Cargill for current and future generations to enjoy.

With best regards,

Kevin McKague
President
Friends of Historic Cargill
201 Cargill Road
Cargill ON N0G 1J0

Second Section

SPORTS	2B	3B
OBITS		4B
KIDS		6B
FARM		8B



THE HENRY CARGILL "WHITE" HOUSE, in Cargill, is the first property in Greenock Township to be designated as a property of historical and architectural interest under the Ontario Heritage Act. The

house is a Stick style home, a unique variation of the Queen Anne Revival Style. There are very few examples of the Stick style home in Ontario.



IRON CRESTING, lying on the sidewalk leading to the front veranda, waits to be installed along the top of the veranda. When Sandra Pitt bought the property in January 1986, removal of the thorn hedge surrounding the property was the first thing done.



THE CARRIAGE HOUSE, located north west of the house, will be restored in the future. Other future work on the property includes repainting the home to its historical colors and masonry work on the house's foundation.

Story and photos by Debbie Stull

Heritage home is designated

CARGILL—One of the few homes in Ontario which is an example of a Stick style home can be found in Cargill.

The Henry Cargill "White" House, a unique variation of the Queen Anne Revival style which contains elements of the American influenced Stick style, is the first to be designated as a heritage property in Greenock Township.

The designation is nice in the fact that "the house represents a family that had a fair bit to do with the history of the township, particularly with the history of Cargill," said Dick Radford, clerk-treasurer for Greenock Council.

The home had been deteriorating over the years. When Sandra Pitt, of Cargill, purchased the home one cold day in January 1986, she did so with the intention of restoring it.

Pitt made a request through the municipality clerk to have the property be considered for designation as a Heritage property under the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA).

Once the municipality draws up an intention to designate the property, any rate

payer can object within 30 days of the dated document. If no objections are raised, the municipality proceeds to pass a Heritage designation by-law.

ABOUT THE HOUSE

The home falls under part four of the OHA, which deals with individual buildings, and had to be considered for its architectural significance, its historical importance, and its esthetic value to the community.

"The building falls into all three categories," said Dale Wilson, executive

secretary-treasurer of Heritage Walkerton. "The house has a very significant architectural merit, its history is tied to the village of Cargill, and it's located in a pleasing type of environment."

The building is located on a fair size property and has an out building like a small carriage house.

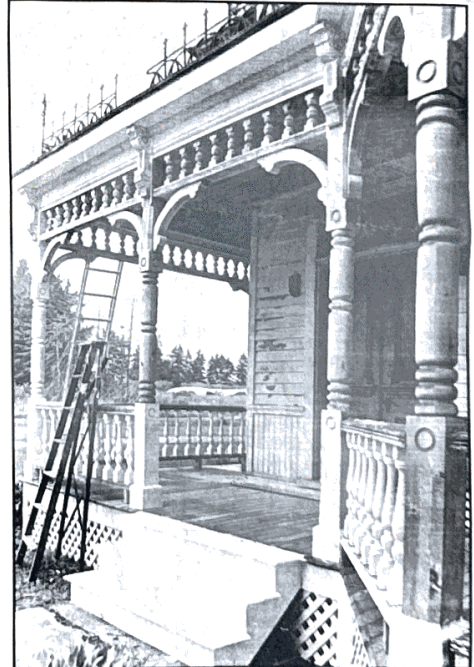
Wilson describes the structure of the house as "very interesting. The style of the home indicates it was built in the

HOME/see page 38



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE—The iron cresting along the top of the veranda is being replaced, as well as the spindles and posts along the veranda.

This is one of the first steps in restoring the house, dating back to around 1885, to its original state.



INTRICATE DESIGNS ON NEW POSTS AND SPINDLES on the veranda was done by Ed Williamson of Cargill. Williamson turned the new posts on a turning lathe and made them with the exact details of the originals.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF A PROVINCIAL SOCIETY

Houses of Bruce County, Ontario 1850-1900

❦
Ruth Cathcart





Front Cover:
The Thomson/Halliday House

◀ *The Henry Cargill House*

▼ *The George Brockie House*



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THE HENRY CARGILL HOUSE c.1888

Greenock Township Village of Cargill

The illustrious Henry Cargill (1838-1903) was the son of Irish parents from County Antrim. He was born in Halton County and came with his wife, Margaret Davidson, to Greenock Township in Bruce County in 1879. As a public spirited and immensely capable citizen he acted as postmaster in his village from 1880 to 1887, reeve from 1885 to 1887 and Member of Parliament for East Bruce from 1887 until his death in 1903. His children were Wellington David, Carrie, Margaret and Henrietta.

The village of Cargill, located on the banks of the Teeswater River, was originally called Yokassippi, a corruption of the indigenous Indian word meaning "the drowned lands river". This referred to what is known today as the Greenock or the "Great Swamp". Before 1872 it consisted of 150,000 acres of forested wetland. Today it comprises about 20,000 acres or 250 square miles – about one-third of the area of the township. It is drained by creeks, lakes and rivers. One of the unique, natural areas of Ontario, much of the swamp is now managed by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

In early times the swamp was the site of tall stands of virgin white pine, soft maple, elm, cedar, beech, hemlock, ash and yellow birch. All but the pine have regenerated over the years. Thickets of willow, dogwoods and blue beech still make up the understorey. Delicate plants such as orchids, Indian pipe and pitcher plants thrive here as do deer, wild fowl, muskrat, raccoon, fox, weasel and squirrel.

Cargill's holdings amounted to 12,000 acres from which he harvested 5,000,000 board feet of white pine each year for twenty-five years. The trees were felled in the frozen winter months using cross-cut saws. Corduroy roads were built over the soft spots of the swamp enabling men to get about. The oxen were fitted with special shoes so they would not sink into the swamp. A canal of several miles was dug by hand. It filled with water in the spring and the logs were floated along its length until they reached the Teeswater River and then down the river to Cargill. In the village, Henry Cargill opened a sawmill, a steam planing mill, a shingle mill, grist and woollen mills, and a foundry.

Cargill was also a farmer and livestock breeder. He imported 300 head of registered shorthorn cattle from Scotland and raised Clydesdale horses, sheep and swine.

This house, aptly named *The White House*, is the only Cargill family home to survive. (A later and much grander red brick house built across the road and referred to as *The Red House* was destroyed by fire in 1919.) The style, rarely seen in this region, is known as the "stick style". The rectilinear windows and the





structure itself are outlined by boards or sticks painted in starkly contrasting colour to the body of the house. Add a few carefully chosen curving lines and a large verandah surmounted by a wrought iron grill and the result is a house which easily earns the description – picturesque. Fortunately for us, the present owners, Andy and Cathy Cormack, have taken great trouble to restore the house to its former glory.