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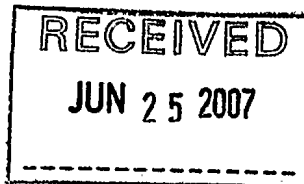
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Office of the Clerk



Reply to: Kerri O'Kane  
519-846-9691 ext: 243  
email: kokane@centrewellington.ca

June 19, 2007

Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Re: By-law 2007-029 - 24 Henderson Street (known as Chalmers Church), Elora, ON

Dear Sir/Madam:

Due to an error with the legal description that was discovered at the time By-law 2007-029, being a by-law to designate 24 Henderson Street (known as the Chalmers Church) in the former Village of Elora, to be of cultural heritage value or interest was registered on title, we have made the required changes.

Please accept the enclosed certified true copy of the corrected by-law for your records.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk's Department.

Yours truly,

KOK

Kerri O'Kane, AMCT  
Deputy Clerk  
Encl.

VRA

## TOWNSHIP OF CENTRE WELLINGTON

### BY-LAW 2007- 029

Being a By-law to designate 24 Henderson Street  
(known as the Chalmers Church) in the former Village  
of Elora, to be of cultural heritage value or interest

**WHEREAS** on the advice of the Municipal Heritage Committee, Council has been advised to designate the property attached hereto to be of cultural heritage value or interest to the provisions of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18;

**AND WHEREAS** the provisions of Section 29, Subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) have been complied with.

**NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CENTRE WELLINGTON HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The lands and premises described as 24 Henderson Street, Plan 181, Block B, Lot 3 to 4, Part Lot 6, RP61R9466, Parts 1, 3 & 4, (formerly in Village of Elora), now in Township of Centre Wellington are hereby designated to be a building of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. The reasons for the designation are as follows:

#### ***Design or Physical value***

The church building known as Chalmers Church was erected on the property in 1877. It is one of only five classic steeple churches ever constructed in Elora, only two of which were built in stone. Its construction represents a time when earlier wood churches in Elora were being replaced with more substantial structures. The design is an example of the Gothic Revival style, popular for religious architecture in Ontario during this period. The exterior is largely unchanged since first constructed, with the notable loss of a wood steeple rising from the stone tower to reach 127 feet from the ground. Exceptional workmanship is evident in the cut stone of the buttresses, tower, lintels, quoins, and window and door openings. Finely carved wood tracery remains in the transom area of the main (south) entranceway. The dominant window openings are characteristic of the Gothic Revival style as a tall, pointed arch type with divided sashes.

#### ***Historical or Associative Value***

In 1844, a split within the Church of Scotland resulted in the formation of a Free Church of Scotland Canadian Synod. By 1848, there was a Free Church congregation in Elora. They met in the Temperance Hall until about 1856, when a modest, wood frame church building was erected near the current location of the stone church. The 1877 stone church represented a more permanent edifice for the local Free Church congregation.

The design of the church is an example of the work of a local architect and engineer, John Taylor.

The church building is associated with the work of the Reverend James Middlemiss who was the first resident pastor of Chalmers Church. He began in 1855 and served the Elora congregation for thirty years.

In 1917, the use of the structure as a church ended. Since that date, it has served other purposes including public use as a motion picture/entertainment venue and community centre. While owned by the Village of Elora it was known as Memorial Hall, and later as the Elora Opera House.

This photocopy is a true copy of the original document which has not been altered in any way.

Dated this 14th day of June 2007

KOK  
Kerri O'Kane, Deputy Clerk  
Township of Centre Wellington

### **Contextual Value**

This property is within an enclave of properties and structures that has been associated with the Free Church congregation of Elora since about 1856 when a wood frame church was erected (since removed). A stone manse constructed in 1861 remains as 14 Henderson Street. Mansfield Cottage at 200 Smith Street was the residence of the Reverend Middlemiss after his retirement as the incumbent of Chalmers Church.

St. John The Evangelist church was constructed at the northeast corner of Henderson and Smith streets, two years before Chalmers Church. These two church buildings historically and visually contribute to the character of the area and are landmarks known to area residents and visitors to Elora.

### **What is to be Protected by Designation**

The cultural heritage value or interest of this property is contained in the 1877, Gothic Revival style, rubblestone church building. The key heritage attributes of the church building are exterior only and include those elements original to the building such as:

- The style, form, massing, and orientation of the rectangular plan
  - The stone masonry of all exterior walls, including such features as the cut stone buttresses, quoins, lintels, type of mortar and pointing, and window and door openings
  - The arched entranceway on the south facade, including the carved wooden tracery within the transom area
  - The 63-foot stone tower with its louvered openings
  - The arched window openings and divided sashes
  - Any memorial or date stones
  - The form, scale, and high pitch of the roof
3. This By-law shall be registered against the title of the lands described as 24 Henderson Street, Plan 181, Block B, Lot 3 to 4, Part Lot 6, RP61R9466, Parts 1, 3 & 4, (formerly in Village of Elora), now in Township of Centre Wellington.
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon its final passing.

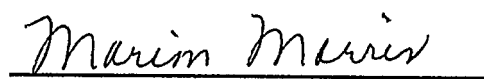
**READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2007

  
Head of Council – Joanne Ross-Zuj

  
Clerk – Marion Morris

**READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2007

  
Head of Council – Joanne Ross-Zuj

  
Clerk – Marion Morris