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The Corporation of the
TOWN OF ESSEX

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December 19, 2007

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

Re: Heritage Designation
John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area
915 County Road 50 East
Harrow, Ontario N0R 1G0

Dear Sir:

This is to advise that the Council of the Town of Essex, at their December 17, 2007 meeting, passed By-law # 865, designating the above captioned property to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

Pursuant to Section 29(b) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 and amendments thereto please find enclosed a certified copy of By-law # 865, together with a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property.

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,

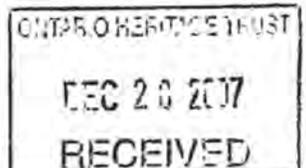
Cheryl A. Bondy
Clerk/Deputy-Treasurer
Town of Essex

CAB/lam

c.c. Mr. Ken Schmidt, General Manager
Essex Region Conservation Authority

Enclosures

E-mail: cbondy@townofessex.on.ca



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX

BY-LAW #865

**BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE
JOHN R. PARK HOMESTEAD CONSERVATION AREA
TO BE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND/OR
HISTORIC VALUE OR INTEREST UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

WHEREAS, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 and amendments thereto, provides that the Council of a municipality may, by By-Law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario currently owns property known locally as the John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area, more particularly described as Part of Lot 39 and 40, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Colchester South, now in the Town of Essex, County of Essex, shown as Parts 1 and 2, Reference Plan 12R-22616 being all of PIN 75195 0061 (LT) and PIN 75186 001 (LT);

AND WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario plans to transfer ownership of the property known locally as the John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area, more particularly described as Part of Lot 39 and 40, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Colchester South, now in the Town of Essex, County of Essex, shown as Parts 1 and 2, Reference Plan 12R-22616 being all of PIN 75195 0061 (LT) and PIN 75186 001 (LT) to the Essex Region Conservation Authority;

AND WHEREAS, a condition of the transfer of ownership from the Province of Ontario to the Essex Region Conservation Authority, is the designation of the subject property by the Town of Essex to be of architectural and/or historical value or interest under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS, The Essex Region Conservation Authority has requested that the Town of Essex designate the subject property to be of architectural and/or historical value or interest under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS, upon consideration of the request from the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the Corporation of the Town of Essex deems it desirable to designate Part of Lot 39 and 40, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Colchester South, now in the Town of Essex, County of Essex, shown as Parts 1 and 2, Reference Plan 12R-22616 being all of PIN 75195 0061 (LT) and PIN 75186 001 (LT) to be of historic or architectural value or interest, for reasons stated in Schedule "A" annexed hereto and forming part of this By-Law;

AND WHEREAS, notice of intention to so designate the subject property was served on the owner of the subject property, the Essex Region Conservation Authority, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, and such notice was published in the Harrow News, Essex Free Press and Essex Voice, being newspapers having general circulation in the municipality;

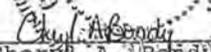
AND WHEREAS, no notice of objection was served on the Clerk of the Corporation.

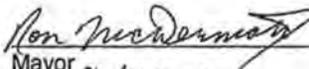
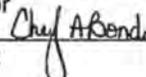
NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Part of Lot 39 and 40, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Colchester South, now in the Town of Essex, County of Essex, shown as Parts 1 and 2, Reference Plan 12R-22616 being all of PIN 75195 0061 (LT) and PIN 75186 001 (LT) be and the same is hereby designated to be of architectural and/or historic value or interest.
2. That this By-Law shall come into full force and effect upon the Province of Ontario transferring the ownership of the subject property to the Essex Region Conservation Authority and upon the registration of this By-Law in the Land Registry Office for Essex (No. 12).

READ A FIRST, SECOND, THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2007.

I, Cheryl A. Bondy, Clerk/Deputy-Treasurer of the Town of Essex, do hereby certify this to be a true copy of By-law #865 passed on the 17th day of December, 2007.


Cheryl A. Bondy
Clerk/Deputy-Treasurer


Mayor

Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"
TO BY-LAW #865

Legal Description

Part of Lot 39 and 40, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Colchester South, now in the Town of Essex, County of Essex, shown as Parts 1 and 2, Reference Plan 12R-22616 being all of PIN 75195 0061 (LT) and PIN 75186 001 (LT)

Description of the Property

John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area

915 County Road 50 East, Town of Essex, Essex County

The John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area is a nineteenth century farmstead comprised of a two-storey clapboard house, eleven frame barns and outbuildings, an heirloom orchard and a garden. Operated as a living history museum, it is located on the south side of County Road 50 East in the former Township of Colchester South, now the Town of Essex. The irregularly shaped property of 5.917 hectares is bounded on the south by Lake Erie, on the east by Fox Creek, and on the north by County Road 50 and Twin Gables Road. The lake frontage is approximately 350 metres.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design or Physical Value

The Homestead, located in the historic Iler Settlement, includes the John R. Park House, constructed in 1842, and the Corn Crib Barn, the Horse Barn, the Blacksmith Shop, the Hog Barn and the Calf Barn, constructed between 1850 and 1882. The Utility Shed, the Smoke House, the Ice House, the Outhouse, the Sawmill and the Curatorial Building constructed between 1978 and 1985, an heirloom orchard, a garden and mature Carolinian trees are also important components of the farmstead. Together, these structures and landscape features form a rare surviving example of a nineteenth century farmstead.

The John R. Park House is also significant as a rare Ontario example of American Greek Revival domestic architecture. Typical of this style, the clapboard house has a two storey gable-roofed centre block, balanced by one storey wings to the east and west.

Historical/ Associative Value

John Richardson Park and his brothers Thomas and Theodore were born in Massachusetts and immigrated to Upper Canada in the 1820s and 1830s. They purchased the 114 acre lot on Lake Erie in 1833. The Parks were important Essex County businessmen: owners of a Great Lakes shipping line, a general store, sawmill, and large land holdings. John was a Councillor and Treasurer for Colchester Township and a founding member of the Colchester Agricultural Society. Following the Parks, the Homestead was owned for two generations by the United Empire Loyalist Fox Family, also prominent in the community.

In 1978, the Homestead opened to the public as a living history museum operated by the Essex Region Conservation Authority under lease from the Ontario Government. The Homestead is Southwestern Ontario's only living farm museum, west of London, and continues to interpret the history of the Park family, the settlement of Essex County and the natural resources of the region.

Contextual Value

The Homestead is located in the midpoint of the "New Settlement" which was surveyed in 1787 by Thomas Smith into long, narrow 200 acre lots, fronting on Lake Erie. Land grants were given to disbanded British soldiers and United Empire Loyalists. Some of those original families - the Ilers, for example - still live in the area.

The Homestead provides the only public access to the shore of Lake Erie in the 15 kilometres between Cedar Beach and Oxley, an area that has been heavily developed for residential purposes. The striking lakeside setting provides site lines with few modern intrusions and demonstrates the importance of water transportation in the past.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Heritage attributes contributing to the value of the John R. Park Homestead as a rare surviving example of a nineteenth century farmstead include the:

- location of the house, barns, outbuildings, heirloom orchard and garden;
- scale and massing of all elevations of the barns and outbuildings;
- brick forge and chimney of the Blacksmith Shop, surrounded by a dirt floor; and
- louvered air ventilators (cupolas) on the roof of the Hog Barn.

Heritage attributes contributing to the value of the John R. Park House as a rare Ontario example of American Greek Revival domestic architecture include the:

- scale, massing and symmetry of the two storey centre block and the one storey east and west wings
- gable roofs on the centre block and the east and west wings
- painted clapboard exterior with wooden shutters;
- wooden sash windows including very large 9-over-6 windows flanked on both sides by 3-over-2 panels on the main floor of the south elevation, 9-over-6 windows on the main floor of the north elevation, and 6-over-6 windows on the second floor;
- fanlights and dentil trim on the gables;
- sidelights and transom surrounding the front (south) entrance;
- wooden pilasters flanking both doors;
- three brick chimneys;
- fieldstone foundation;
- original interior room layout with centre hall and staircase;
- two Rumford fireplaces with built-in cupboards;
- original interior doors and door hardware;