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March 24, 2026

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

RECEIVED
2026/03/24
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

sent via email: registrar@heritagetrust.on.ca

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Notice of Passing – Designation By-law 2026-018
400085 Grey Road 4, Ceylon, Grey Highlands

At the meeting of March 18th, 2026, Council passed the following resolution:
That Council approve By-law 2026-018, being a by-law to designate (Ceylon Public School) the dwelling located at 400085 Grey Road 4, Ceylon, Grey Highlands (former Township of Artemesia) as a Heritage Property.

Pursuant to Section 29(8) of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, chapter O.18. any person who objects to the by-law may appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) by giving OLT and the clerk of the municipality, within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of the by-law, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee charged by OLT.

Notice of the passing of the by-law will be placed in the Flesherton Advance newspaper on April 8, 2026 and the last date for the filing of appeals is May 1, 2026.

If you require any other information, please contact the undersigned.

Amanda Fines-VanAlstine
Municipal Clerk
clerks@greyhighlands.ca
519-986-1216 Ext. 241

Encl.
Attachment 1: Copy of By-law 2026-018

The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands

By-law No. 2026-018

**Being a By-law to designate the dwelling located at
400085 Grey Road 4, Ceylon, Grey Highlands (former
Township of Artemesia) as a Heritage Property**

Whereas, pursuant to Section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter O.18, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas, 400085 Grey Road 4 is the civic address of the property which houses the former schoolhouse known as the Ceylon Public School (roll number 420818000410500); and

Whereas, the Council of the Corporation of Grey Highlands through Heritage Grey Highlands Committee have been in discussion with the owners of the property who have agreed to and requested the designation; and

Whereas, Council directed staff at the January 21, 2026 Council meeting to proceed with the requirements to bring forward a by-law to designate the property as a Heritage Property and the required notice was posted in the Flesherton Advance on January 28, 2026 and received no objections within the 30 day period;

Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the real property described as the former schoolhouse located at 400085 Grey Road 4, Ceylon, Grey Highlands (former Township of Artemesia), having roll number 420818000410500 is hereby designated to be of cultural value or interest under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
2. That the description of the property, statement of its cultural heritage value or interest, and description of its heritage attributes are set out in Schedule A attached hereto and forming part of this by-law.
3. That the Clerk be authorized to have a copy of this by-law registered against the property at the land registry office, served on the property owner and publish notice in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on March 18 2026.

The Corporation of the
Municipality of Grey Highlands

Original Signed By

Paul McQueen, Mayor

Original Signed By

Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

Status: Passed

Ceylon Public School SS#10 Built 1887

400085 Grey Road 4, Ceylon. Concession 3 WTSR, Part Lot 150, Artemesia Township. The property fronts on Grey Rd 4 at the eastern border of Ceylon, on the northwest corner of the junction with West Back Line.

Description of property:

- The property is .64 acres with a little over 110' frontage onto Grey Rd. 4. The lot is an irregular shape due to the side road being at an angle, with the rear lot line being almost twice as long as the front.
- The original school building is a 27'x42' rectangle with 4 buttresses evenly spaced between the three windows on the east and west sides. The central window on the west side was replaced by a doorway during the Soans family renovations in the 1970s.
- The original 10'x10' narthex which was centered on the south side facing the road had a window in the south wall and only one entry door on the east side of the narthex. In 2020, the damaged narthex was expanded to cover the entire south side of the building, and the original small entry doors into the classroom were replaced.
- In the 1930s, an exterior well was dug in the alcove between the west narthex wall and the south frontage, and a small opening was created likely to allow water to be passed into the building. A 20'x15' wood addition was also added to the rear of the school, likely used for storage and/or firewood. More recently, the current owners have added a 20'x24' board & batten garage north of said smaller addition.
- The conversion of the schoolhouse into a home has created an airy, open-spaced dwelling with bright natural light from the windows but has not preserved any significant interior heritage features other than the remaining original windows.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

***Ceylon Public School* has design value and physical value because:**

- It is a representative example of early one-room schoolhouses constructed of local brick and oriented with classroom windows on east & west side to provide natural light for the entire day.
- It is rare for a local brick schoolhouse to have buttresses of contrasting brick colour and/or contrast banding both above and below the windows. The random yellow bricks scattered on the exterior north wall are also unusual but are likely due to an economical use of what remained available.
- It is very unusual for any one room schoolhouse of the 1800s to have only one entry door instead of one each for girls and boys. That this single entry is on the east side of the original narthex which had a solid wall on the west side is likely because with the school located on a hilltop, the entry was subject to strong winds blowing rain and snow from many miles of open fields to the west of the village.

***Ceylon Public School* has historical value and associative value because:**

- It has many associations to the community of Ceylon including Agnes McPhail who would have been very supportive of the school and the many generations of students who

- subsequently went on to be part of the community.
- It yields interesting details of life in small rural hamlets and the importance of these schoolhouses not just to students, but to the community at large:
 - Eg From 1870's to 1930, students had to draw and then carry water from the town pump for use at school, with that water being regularly tested for safe drinking.
 - Eg Evenings the schoolhouse did double-duty as a community center used for concerts and other social events, especially during the wars when events were used to raise money for items that could be sent to local boys serving overseas.
 - Eg A small single classroom attended for 8 years meant that students formed strong bonds not just with children their own age, but to their older and younger siblings. Because teachers normally stayed for many years, many students also became very attached to teachers. One of the last teachers prior to the school closing in 1968 was Mrs. Marion Duncan who remained a long-standing influence in the life of Sharon Sinclair, first poet laureate of Grey Highlands.

***Ceylon Public School* has contextual value because:**

- It is a landmark on a hill, visible when approaching from the east.
- It is historically and physically linked to the location on "main street" that hundreds of students would have walked to over the 90+ years for grades K-8.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Key exterior attributes that exemplify the typical and/or the unique design value of *Ceylon Public School* include:

- All original brickwork which includes foundation wall, decorative banding and contrast buttresses.
- Original windows as placed in the brick walls.
- Wooden corbels, many original, the rest replaced in kind.

Key attributes that contribute to the contextual value:

- The size and massing of the structure and additions as originally located on the property.