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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPERTIES,
OR PORTIONS THEREOF, WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES
OF THE CITY OF GUELPH,
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
WHICH HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED BY BY-LAW AS
PROPERTIES, BUILDINGS, OR ITEMS OF
CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE.

### NOTICE OF PASSING OF DESIGNATION BY-LAW

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation
The Ontario Heritage Centre
10 Adelaide St. East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

AND:

25 Mitchell Street Guelph, ON N1E 4J2 RECU/RECEIVED 2 6 -03- 7004

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Guelph has passed By-law Number (2004)–17377 to designate portions of the building on the property known as 25 Mitchell Street as being of cultural heritage value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Dated at Guelph, Ontario, this FIFTEENTH day of MARCH, 2004.

Lois Giles
Director of Information
Services/City Clerk
City Hall, 59 Carden St.
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A1

6/23/04 RR

# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH

By-law Number (2004) - 17377

A by-law to designate portions of the building on property municipally known as 25 Mitchell Street and legally described as Plan 40, Pt Lot 1, Pt Lot 4, Pt Lot 5, City of Guelph, as being of cultural heritage value and interest.

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, or portions thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as 25 Mitchell Street notice of intention to designate portions of the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" hereto; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the said property designation has been served upon the clerk of the municipality;

# NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. There is designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, portions of the building on property known as 25 Mitchell Street to the extent more particularly described in Schedule "C" to this By-law.
- 2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" to this By-law in the proper land registry office.
- 3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Guelph.

PASSED this FIFTEENTH day of MARCH, 2004.

ĽM. QUÁRRIE - MAYOI

LOIS A. GILES

# SCHEDULE A By-law Number (2004) – 17377

The property is legally described as Plan 40, Pt Lot 1, Pt Lot 4, Pt Lot 5, City of Guelph.

### SCHEDULE B By-law Number (2004) – 17377

### STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

# "FERNDELL" 25 MITCHELL STREET, GUELPH

- Built by a prominent local industrialist and public person
- The house is an excellent example of a Guelph stone residential architecture
- The house is in an excellent state of preservation

This limestone house, owned and built by foundry man Adam Robertson, Sr. in the late 1850s, represents two important themes in early Guelph history - foundries as the beginnings of local industry, and the close connection between Guelph and the surrounding agricultural community.

Adam Robertson built the two and a half storey house of local limestone, probably quarried from the site, on the Mitchell Block, land he had purchased for his foundry in 1852. The foundry was constructed in 1852 (this is now a small apartment building). The house itself was constructed several years later of similar stone. It is shown clearly on the Cooper map of 1862, when it and the foundry were the only buildings on the block bounded by Mitchell, Eramosa, King and Norwich Streets. The foundry was the third that Robertson constructed in Guelph, having arrived in Canada from Scotland in the 1830s, with previous stops in the Brantford area and Paris before coming to Guelph in 1847. In this foundry, known as the Guelph Foundry, Robertson and his employees produced agricultural implements for the local farmers. During the American Civil War Robertson also made armaments for the Confederacy, especially cannon destined for an ill-fated attempt to free Confederate officers from a prison on Johnson Island in Ohio.

Adam Robertson was a long-standing Town Councillor, sitting in public service in periods from the mid-1850s to the early 1880s. Mr. Robertson was Mayor in 1873.

The house was built about one hundred yards from the foundry and is typical of what is generally known as "the Ontario House," popular primarily in rural Ontario, with some characteristics typical of the Scottish background of its builder. Robertson and the local newspapers always referred to the house as "Ferndell", perhaps because the hillside behind the house may have been covered with wild ferns. Ferndell has the classical symmetry of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century styles, with a central hall plan, and a kitchen added to the back to form a T shape. And it also has a gothic gable and window over the front entrance, popular in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Typical of the Scottish tradition, the house has a stone wall at the front property line, a feature rare in Guelph.

As in the Canadian and Scottish traditions, the houses's public areas are much fancier than those areas used only by the family. On the exterior, the front wall is cut stone, while the side and rear walls, and the adjoining kitchen are built of rubble stone. This pattern carries over into the interior where the windows of the parlour, to the right of the front hall, and the front bedroom upstairs, are elaborately panelled while windows throughout the rest of the house are more simply framed..

The Edwardian front porch was added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when Robertson's son, Adam Jr. lived in it and was the proprietor of the foundry.

The exterior of the house is remarkably similar to the original building, never having been added to as was often the case with older homes in Guelph.

# SCHEDULE C By-law Number (2004) – 17377

#### WHAT IS TO BE PROTECTED BY DESIGNATION

### Exterior:

- All of the exterior walls;
- The exterior windows, doors and related trim;
- The front stone garden wall;
- The front porch;
- The size and shape of the louvered wood shutters on the front façade.

### Interior:

- All the interior baseboards, window and door frames, and the doors;
- The staircase and handrail;
- The two fireplaces on the ground floor;
- The John Carpenter locks on the upstairs bedroom doors.

It is intended that any non-original features may be returned to their documented original form without requiring City Council permission for an alteration to the designation.