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Centre Wellington

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

FEB 14 2019

RECEIVED

February 1, 2019



Dear [REDACTED]:

Please take notice that, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington passed designation by-law 2018-60, designating the property below as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29).

**37 McNab Street  
Elora, Ontario**

Attached is a copy of the notice of passing which was published in the newspaper on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and the designation by-law which has been registered on title, fulfilling the requirements of the Act. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Mariana Iglesias, MCIP, RPP, CAHP

Encl.

*Copy: Ontario Heritage Trust, 10 Adelaide St. E., Toronto ON M5C 1J3*

**The Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington**

**By-law 2018-60**

A By-law to designate the lands and buildings at  
37 McNab Street  
to be of cultural heritage value or interest

**Whereas** The *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 (the "Act"), as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact By-laws to designate real property including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

**And Whereas** On the advice of the municipal Heritage Committee, Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known municipally as 37 McNab Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

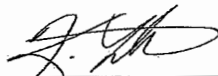
**And Whereas** The owners of the lands filed an appeal to the Conservation Review Board on October 27, 2017 (the "Notice of Objection");

**And Whereas** The Notice of Objection to the proposed designation was withdrawn by the owner/appellant on September 24, 2018;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington hereby enacts as follows:**

1. The real property municipally known as 37 McNab Street and more particularly described in Schedule "A", is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Act*.
2. The reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B".
3. The Township's legal representative is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" in the proper land registry office.
4. Township staff is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City.
5. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon its final passing.

**Read a first, second and third time and finally passed** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor – Kelly Linton

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk – Kerri O'Kane

**Schedule "A"**

Legal Description

LT 2 SE/S WOOLWICH ST BTN HIGH & WELLINGTON ST PL 181 ELORA; CENTRE  
WELLINGTON

PIN: 71409-0014 (LT)

## **Schedule "B"**

### Description of Property

37 McNab Street is located on Plan 181, Lot 2 in the Township of Centre Wellington, County of Wellington (formerly the Village of Elora).

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of 37 McNab Street resides in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value and its contextual value.

#### **Design or Physical Value:**

The structure located at 37 McNab Street is significant because it is an early example of a pre-Confederation one storey log schoolhouse. Its design is simple, solid and unadorned, reflecting its practical institutional use and the meagre resources available at the time it was constructed. It was designed and constructed by local residents who donated their labour and the land upon which it was built. Log construction was a quick, easy and inexpensive construction technique and was one of the first styles of construction that European pioneers brought to Upper Canada. The rounded logs are visible today on the front façade. The corners appear to have been square-notched where the logs are joined to allow for a tighter fit. The spaces between the logs have been filled with generous chinking. The original roof would likely have been end gabled and clad in wood shingles with a central chimney associated with a fireplace or stove, but this cannot be confirmed. The roof was modified when the addition to the east was constructed.

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

The structure at 37 McNab Street is significant for its association to the growth and evolution of the educational system locally. The early settlers of Elora were predominantly Scottish and, as such, education received early attention. It was constructed initially as Elora's first purpose-built schoolhouse on lands donated by Jasper Gilkison of Niagara.

The establishments of the school is associated with several prominent local businessmen. When it was constructed the schoolhouse embodied the principle that institutional establishments, such as schools and churches, had "civilizing influences on the community". The local ministers considered it their duty to involve themselves in educational matters as trustees, inspectors and teachers. Two of the earliest educators were George Elmslie and James Middleton, Bon Accord Scots who established the first school in the Elora area in Salem around 1835-1837. Both were later employed at the Common School. Joseph Carder, a farmer at the south end of Elora, was an early promoter of schools and instrumental in the establishment of the Common School in Elora. He was a member of a committee which in early 1842 helped start the school in Elora, along with prominent local residents William Reynolds (Anglican Church), James Ross (Ross and Co.), Robert Mitchell, Josiah Johnson and Henry Wilbee. The committee wanted to build a residence attached to the school to attract a teacher but there is some uncertainty as to whether it was ever constructed due to financial constraints. Charles Allen asked Nichol Township for aid in building a school and a School Section (designated Division 3 of Nichol) was established at the site.

The school was constructed on Lot 2 (formerly Lot 7, Map 888, A.D. Fordyce). The building was constructed in the summer of 1842 and initially used to educate the community's young boys but served the community at large, including students from Nichol and Woolwich Townships as it was considered far superior to the rural schools in existence at that time. It became known as the Elora Common School (simply meaning "public school").

It also served as a general meeting house for many years. The early Wesleyan Methodist Church used it for its congregation until they raised sufficient funds to construct their own log structure nearby. In 1849 the Common School shared its space with a branch of the County Grammar School (High School) until the Grammar School moved to a new location in 1858. The Grammar School was one of the first free grammar schools to be established in Upper Canada and the first in the district of North Wellington, which at that time was part of Waterloo County and part of Grey County. Its first principal was John MacGregor (1858-1905) who is also linked to the McNab Schoolhouse.

In 1854, due to provincial legislative changes, the two schools were united and the Board of Trustees included several prominent local community members like Rev. John Duff (minister of Knox Church, Elora), Rev. Geo. Smellie (minister of Melville United Church), Rev. John Smithurst, and Geo. D. Ferguson, James Geddes, Andrew Geddes, Dr. Middleton, James Philip, and John Smith. John McLean Bell was the first headmaster.

This early school is also significant because it relays information about how society viewed boys and girls in thinking their education should be segregated, not necessarily out of prudishness, but

because it was thought their educational needs were different. The Common School was primarily used to educate boys, but some girls were said to have attended classes as well since there was no official girls' school at the time of its opening and for some years to come. In January 1853, a Girls' School opened on the north side of the river, renting various rooms for a few years before permanent quarters were built on Melville Street in 1856 (currently the Elora Centre for the Arts). However, many parents defied regulations and continued to send their daughters to the Common School where they were taught more practical subjects such as languages, arithmetic and sciences. The Girls' School emphasized manners, household skills, art, needlework, in addition to basic language skills and arithmetic. Many parents thought the girls' schools were snobbish and watered-down versions of what was offered in the boys' schools.

The history of this schoolhouse is significant because it embodies the dedication of the community to starting and maintaining an educational institution for its youth even through modest times. The raising of funds to carry on school work was always a challenge for the Trustees, as was paying teachers' salaries. At times, local residents and business owners contributed to the teachers' salaries. Often grants were given by the Province, the local Council and County Council. In 1861 the Board Trustees dispensed with tuition fees resulting in a free system and fewer children on the streets. But this caused overcrowding of the small schoolhouse. Crowding became an acute problem by the mid-1860s. In response, the School Board decided to build a new two storey, four room public school in 1866 on the north side of the river adjacent to the Girls' School. The Boys' School in the log schoolhouse was closed that same year.

The building is said to have served as the Town Hall, a singing class studio, and the community's interdenominational Sabbath (Sunday) School for more than 5 years. In addition, it is linked to the history of the development of early libraries since the Sabbath School students paid membership fees that allowed the superintendent to purchase books for use by the students and the general public. The Board sold the log schoolhouse property in 1871 and it has been in continuous use as a private residence ever since.

#### Contextual Value:

37 McNab Street, Elora, is significant for its contribution to an understanding of the development of early institutional life in the Village of Elora, which began on the south side of the river when there were few properties yet established on the north side. At the time of its construction, there were just over 20 properties developed for residential use with several mills on the river and a tavern. The Wesleyan Methodist Church was constructed just west of the property in a building that still remains today at the southeast corner of McNab and Victoria Streets. The Drill Shed was constructed down the street in 1865 and served as the community hall after the schoolhouse closed. At one time the schoolhouse would have been a prominent local landmark, although today it blends in with the adjacent homes as part of a residential streetscape. It sat at the top of the hill and attracted students from great distances to this part of Elora.

It is also surrounded by other heritage buildings, contributing to the historic streetscape and an understanding of the evolution of the community on the south side of the river. It served as a prominent local gathering place for many community institutions of the day. The building's 20 by 20 foot footprint, in comparison to other structures nearby, emphasizes how modest a building it was and the tight quarters that students must have dealt with much of the time, especially as overcrowding became an issue. The building's front enclosed porch actually encroaches on the right-of-way. Its proximity to the street makes it highly visible to passersby.

#### Description of Heritage Attributes

- General overall height, massing and footprint, approximately 6 x 8 metres (20 x 26 feet), of the original 1842 one storey schoolhouse
- Original exposed rounded log construction with square-notched corners
- Original window and door openings of the north (front) facade

Note: Designation excludes later addition to the east of the original log structure and excludes the existing roof and front porch enclosure.

**NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF VARIOUS HERITAGE DESIGNATION BY-LAWS  
BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CENTRE WELLINGTON**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington passed By-laws to designate the following properties to be of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18:

- By-law 2019-01 – to designate 45 Colborne Street (Plan 181, Lot 1 and Pt Lot 2, formerly in the Village of Elora), passed on January 21, 2019 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2019-02 – to designate 209 Menzies Lane (Plan 239, Pt Lot U, RP61R-11476, Part 1, formerly in the Town of Fergus), passed on January 21, 2019 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2018-60 – to designate 37 McNab Street (Plan 181, Lot 2, formerly in the Village of Elora), passed on September 24, 2018 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2017-41 – to designate 24 North Broadway Street (Plan 78, Lots 7 to 9, Pt Lot 6, formerly in the Township of West Garafraxa, Village of Belwood), passed on June 26, 2017 under Section 29 of the Act
- By-law 2017-63 – to designate 495 Union Street West (Plan 77, Pt Lot D, RP61R-3005, Part 1, formerly in the Town of Fergus), passed on August 28, 2017 under Section 29 of the Act

For additional information, including full descriptions of the reasons for designation relating to the above designated properties please contact Mariana Iglesias, Senior Planner (519-846-9691 x289).

Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2019.

Kerri O'Kane,  
Municipal Clerk  
1 MacDonald Square  
Elora, Ontario  
N0B 1S0