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JAN 19 2005
CONSERVATION REVIEW
BOARD

JAN 10 2005

January 7, 2005

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide St. E.
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington intends to designate the property listed below as a property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29).

27 - 43 West Mill Street
Elora, Ontario

Attached is a copy of the notice regarding the intent to designate.

Yours truly,

Carolyn Hacking
A.M.C.T.
Clerk



**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O 18, Sect. 29)**

And in the matter of lands and premises at the following address in the Province of Ontario

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29)

23 - 43 West Mill Street, former Village of Elora

Reasons for the Designation:

Historical

Though not Elora's first hotel, it was the first worthy of the name. The earliest portion dates to 1848. A series of additions followed over the next two decades until, by 1870, the Commercial boasted 70 bedrooms for rent, four sample rooms for traveling salesmen, five parlours, a dining room and a large stable in addition to the popular barroom. John Bain was the proprietor between 1858 and 1865.

Politics and the Commercial Hotel were inseparably connected in the early days. Elora was a hotbed for the Clear Grit brand of reformers and the Commercial's banquet room was frequently called upon for meetings and rallies. Over the years, most of the face cards of Canadian politics made at least one appearance at the Commercial: George Brown, A.A. Dorion, Sandfield Macdonald, Oliver Mowat and Edward Blake.

In 1865, Robert Biggar took over the Commercial Hotel and operated a twice-daily stagecoach to Guelph for the next 40 years.

The banquet hall of the Commercial is now the theatre of the Gorge Cinema.

Despite its present day unprepossessing appearance, this large building has a commanding presence and is an important part of the streetscape of the Village of Elora.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Township of Centre Wellington before the 7th day of February 2005.

Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington this 7th day of January 2005.

Carolyn Hacking, Clerk, A.M.C.T.
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