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CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Wellington

TOWNSHIP OF CENTRE WELLINGTON

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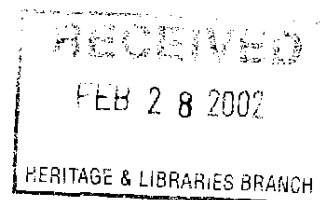
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February 15, 2002

FEB 19 2002

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, including lands and buildings at the following municipal addresses as properties of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 23).

75 Melville Street, former Village of Elora
Elora Junior School

Reasons for Designation:

The Building

For 140 years the Elora School served the educational needs of the village. The present building is the product of 80 years of uncoordinated construction and renovation taken to meet the current needs of the community while working within the constraints of tight budgets. The resulting disarray of styles and forms seem to have been assembled with little logic or forethought. Many have considered it one of the village's important heritage structures; other consider it an inefficient monstrosity.

The Elora Girls School (southeast corner of the present structure) was built in 1856. Ten years later the Boys School was built to the north, connected to the Girls School. It wasn't until 1871 that boys and girls education were integrated, after a second floor was added to the Girls School. By 1874 the north wing was added and the former Girls School became a High School (replacing the recently burned Grammar School) The Public School, designed by architect John Taylor and Principal David Boyle, comprised five classrooms and a museum created by Boyle.

Over the years improvements included central heating (1895, utilising four furnaces), electric lights and bathrooms (1927) and centre steam heating (1935) The final addition was the three story structure built on the southwest corner in 1939 to serve an enlarged

high school enrolment with added needs for shop and home economics classes. This is believed to be the last rubblestone building built in Elora.

With the construction of a new High School in 1959, the entire building reverted to a Public School. The High School was converted to a Senior Public School in 1970, and the original building became a Junior Public School.

The school was closed in 1996. At that time the original Girls School portion was probably the oldest active school building in the Province, while the 1939 addition was the last three-story school structure in Wellington.

History

The Elora Public School was the training ground for many well known citizens. Those who achieved respect outside the community include John Connon, local historian and photographer, who invented the panoramic camera; John Drew, lawyer whose son George became Premier of Ontario; Charles Kirk Clarke, psychiatrist, after whom the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry is named, and Marion Roberts, who married Frederick Banding, discoverer of insulin. One of Boyle's students, Charlest Broley, became a banker. Perhaps because of Boyle's early influence, he was an avid amateur ornithologist. He was one of the early people to identify the effect of DDT on birds in the 1940s and 1950s. Rachel Carson used some of his work in her book Silent Spring.

One of the greatest contributors to the school's history was David Boyle, Principal from 1871 to 1881. An immigrant Scottish blacksmith, Boyle continually sought to improve himself and to inspire his students. Like some others of his time, Boyle shunned the then popular rote teaching in favour of stimulating students to learn by using examples of the world around them to discover and understand the principles of mathematics and science. With the aid of his students, Boyle created a museum in the school. By the time he left in 1881, the museum was attracting visitors from around south-western Ontario and some from overseas.

Moving to Toronto, Boyle became Curator of the Canadian Institute Museum in 1884 and of the Ontario Provincial Museum (later the Royal Ontario Museum) in 1886. Some artefacts from the Elora Museum are still in the R.O.M. collection.

Boyle died three years before the R.O.M. opened in 1914 but he had a great deal of influence on its design and exhibit philosophy. The simple Scots tradesman is still respected in England, Canada and the United States as a leader in Archaeology and museology.

His own philosophy, offered to more than one group of students at Elora Public School was, *"Aim high you are then more likely to his something of value than otherwise. Whatever you do, let it be done your best."*

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 11th day of March 2002.

Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington this 8th day of February 2002.

Carolyn Hacking, A.M.C.T.
Clerk
1 MacDonald Square, Box 10
Elora, Ontario
N0B 1S0

c.c. Mayor G. Pinkney, Township of Centre Wellington
Arts Elora