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The Corporation of the Municipality of
Central Elgin

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Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under the Ontario Heritage Act

181-191 BRAYSIDE STREET

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin intends to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18:

Selborne mill and two joined log cabins located on property known municipally as **181-191 Brayside Street** and legally described as **Part of Lots 2 and 3, Concession 1, Parts 4, 5 and 6, Plan 11R-2108, and Part 1, Reference Plan 11R-2894, Geographic Township of Yarmouth, Municipality of Central Elgin**. All façades of the Selborne mill building and the two joined log cabins are intended to be designated.

The full statements of cultural heritage value or interest is available on the municipal website, www.centralelgin.org, under "Public Notices".

Any person may, not later than **Friday, November 27th, 2020**, serve on the Clerk of the Municipality of Central Elgin a **notice of objection** setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a notice of objection has been served, the Council shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

DATED at the Municipality of Central Elgin this 26th day of October, 2020.

Donald N. Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer & Clerk

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
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Heritage Central Elgin

Your municipal heritage committee are recommending to council the designation of the Selborne Mill at 181 Brayside St. in Port Stanley as well as the two log cabins at 191 Brayside St. which are joined together to form one building. The attached reports explain the significance of these structures. They are both of historical value as well as architectural significance. The owners of the properties are eager to have them designated to assure their continued existence. They are owned by [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] have invited council and your municipal heritage committee to tour the structures at any time and they are well worth your time to tour. The interior of the mill features many early artifacts from the mill itself as well as other valuable pieces of our history.

Dr. Robert J. Burns
Chair of Heritage Central Elgin

The Selborne Mill (Smith Mill)

Architectural Qualities

The mill was constructed of large white oak beams and is three stories high and 35 ' by 35'. The first and second floors feature upright beams, 12 around the perimeter and four in the central area. The beams are 12.5" by 12.5" and 9'9 1/2" tall. The beams are beautifully cut into octagonal shapes at the ends. The 25 first floor ceiling beams are 9" by 12", by 35' long. The original mill had no veranda but verandas on the front were added to all three stories. The ridge beam for the roof is 39' long white oak that extends 4' beyond the building and contains a huge iron eye bolt. This section was used originally to raise the grain for grinding. To make it into a home many windows were added but Mr. Smith used to original mill stones for steps, the 5' mill pulley for a coffee table and another wooden pulley as a chandelier. The interior fireplace features a cooking iron bar and beside it a brick bake oven. The current house is full of antiques from the same period as the mill as well as wall posters from the original mill.

Registry Office Material and Historical Significance

The property on which the Selborne mill stands today was the south part of the Hepburn Farm in Yarmouth Township. This is the third site of the mill. The mill was originally built in 1831 by Jesse Zavitz on land owned by James Begg, son-in-law of Joseph Smith who commissioned the building of the mill. In 1857 the mill was sold and again in 1863, then again in 1864 and finally in 1868 to Thomas Harding. It remained in the Harding family until 1925 when it was purchased by George Bell who ran it until his death in 1942. Many remember it as the Harding Mill or the Bell Mill. Teskey and Christine Smith purchased the building and all it's contents in 1949 but not the land.

The mill was dismantled with all beams carefully marked with paint to allow for the complete reconstruction. The mill was reconstructed on a section of property to the east of Lawrence Street off of Harrison Place. The 20 acres of land was purchased from the Harrison farm and the site the mill was rebuilt on was 400 feet from the lake on a hill. By 1954 the erosion on the lake front was threatening the access to the site and in 1955 it was agreed to move to its current location. It was too expensive to dismantle again so it was agreed to move it on three huge undercarriages linked by massive beams to support the weight of the 135tons. It was jacked up on a number of jacks capable of holding 50 tons each. It took two winters to move it across the farm fields to its current locations.

Legal Description

181 Brayside St.

Concession 1, Part Lot 2 & 3 RP 11 R2108 Parts 4, 5, 6 & RP 11 R2894 Part 1 10.89 acres

Municipality of Central Elgin (Yarmouth Township)

Note: Proposed designation of entire exterior of building.

