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*Wellington*

**TOWNSHIP OF ERAMOSA**

OFFICE OF  
CLERK - TREASURER  
519-856-9951

R.R.1, ROCKWOOD, ONTARIO  
CANADA, NOB 2K0

June 8th, 1982.

Ontario Heritage Foundation,  
77 Grenville St.,  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ont.  
M7A 1E8

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed herewith Notice of Intention to  
Designate and accompanying material.

Notice will be published in the Guelph  
Mercury on the 11th, 18th and 25th of June, 1982.

Yours very truly,

*L. T. Hindley*

L.T.Hindley,  
Clerk-Treasurer

LTH:mb  
enc.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O., 1980, CHAPTER 337

And in the matter of the Premises known Municipally As Part of the East Half Lot 26, Concession 7, Lots 134, 135 (Everton), South West Part Lot 1, Concession 2 (Eden Mills), Lot 1, Concession 2 (Eden Mills), West Half Lot 12, Concession 1.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation Township of Eramosa intends to designate the buildings at the following municipal addresses as properties of historic and architectural value and interest under S.S.4 of Section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337.

Statement of Reasons for Proposed Designations.

MIMOSA UNITED CHURCH - Part of the East Half Lot 26, Concession 7.  
For designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including stone walls, windows, door openings, front door and existing roof line; also the interior furnishings from the Mimosa Methodist Church; pews, pulpit and three pulpit chairs.

EVERTON DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CHURCH - East of Market Square, Lots 134, 135.  
For designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including limestone walls, windows, front door, door openings, existing gable roof line and unique transom window.

EDEN MILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - South-west Part Lot 1, Concession 2.  
For designation and preservation of the exterior of the limestone building including stone walls, windows, door openings, front door, existing roof-line and belfry.

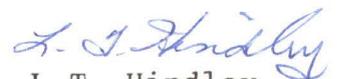
EDEN MILLS GENERAL STORE - Lot 1 in the Village of Eden Mills.  
For designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including the limestone walls, stone guttering, close eaves, 12 paned upper and lower sashed windows, existing doors and original store-front with outer and inner windows.

PARKINSON HOMESTEAD - West half Lot 12, Concession 1.  
For designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including the limestone walls, windows, doors, door openings, existing hip roof line and unique stone wings.

LACAC recommends designation and preservation of the unique architectural features and historical significance of the aforementioned properties.

Any person may, within thirty days of the first publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Township of Eramosa notice of his or her objections to the proposed designations, together with a statement of the reasons for the objections and all relevant facts. If such a notice is received, the Council of Corporation of the Township of Eramosa shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at Eramosa Township, Ontario  
This eighth day of June, 1982.

  
L.T. Hindley.  
Clerk.

List of proposed designated properties from Eramosa Township  
Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee - 1982.

1) MIMOSA UNITED CHURCH - 1884

Part of the East Half Lot 26, Concession VII, Eramosa Township

Bethel Methodist Church - 1871 - 1925

Early Eramosa settlers of the Wesleyan Methodist Congregation had been meeting in a small frame church on the Copeland farm; this location was referred to as Copeland's Church. In 1871 a church was built on land donated by William Ching.

The new church was named Bethel, meaning "house of <sup>God</sup> prayer". Since the church exterior had been painted brown it became known as "The Brown Church" and was located on the South-west Corner of Lot 26, Concession VI, Eramosa Township. Reverent Findlay Malcolm Smith was the church's first minister in 1871.

When church amalgamation took place in 1925 ( Bethel Methodist, Mimosa Presbyterian, Mimosa Methodist ) this building was dismantled and moved to a new site in Hillsburgh for the Hillsburgh United Church congregation. At this time the building was set on a basement foundation and was bricked-in. When the Hillsburgh congregation was disbanded in 1977 ( and absorbed by the Erin United Church ) the building was sold to a local commercial enterprise.

Mimosa Methodist Church - 1860-1925

Mimosa area pioneers first met for worship in a log building on Humphrey Jessop's farm on Lot 29, Concession II, Erin Township as well as in the school on the north corner of Gedeon Awrey's farm, Lot 21, Concession II, Erin Township.

Finally a church was built on  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre purchased from John Small in 1860. This congregation remained strong and devout for thirty years. Then the frame building was replaced with a larger brick one complete with basement and furnace. This church was allied with the Stone Church, Eramosa Centre and Bethel Church, 6th line, Eramosa.

On a blustery February evening in 1905 with fires stoked high in preparation for the Sunday service, the church was destroyed by fire. That same year the church was rebuilt and used until church union in 1925. In 1938 the church was dismantled.

Mimosa Presbyterian Church - 1864 - 1925

The first building erected in 1864 was "The Balmsville Meeting House" on land donated by Neil and Margaret McDonald on Lot 27, Concession VII, Eramosa Township. This was a frame structure and was in continuous use for twenty years.

In 1884 land was purchased from Peter McGregor for the sum of one dollar on Lot 28, Concession VII and a stone building was erected by a young Italian stonemason named Charles Castani. This church was allied with St. John's Presbyterian Church, Belwood until church union in 1925.

1925 - Mimosa United Church was formed from the three previously mentioned churches. The place of worship was to be the former Mimosa Presbyterian Church.

1938 - was the year extensive renovations took place which included basement excavation, remodelling the sanctuary using windows, pews, pulpit, chairs and furnace of the Mimosa Methodist Church which was being dismantled.

1949 - Hydro was installed.

1974 - the church basement was renovated with raised floor, wall panelling, plus a church addition to improve kitchen facilities, modern washrooms, meeting room and minister's study.

1979 - the sanctuary was redecorated as well as having six lights installed and a large illuminated cross.

In 1934 there was an interesting service held at which time the history of the founding churches was related by Mr. Leonard Awrey of the former Mimosa Methodist Church, Mrs. Hugh Lindsay of the former Bethel Church and Mr. Melvin Grant of the former Mimosa Presbyterian Church.

L.A.C.A.C. recommends designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including stone walls, windows, door openings, front door and existing roof line; also the interior furnishings from the Mimosa Methodist Church: pews, pulpit and three pulpit chairs.

2) EVERTON DISCIPLES of CHRIST CHURCH - 1861  
East of Market Square, Lots 134, 135 in the Village of Everton.

Datestone - 1861, of limestone construction, Gothic entrance with multi-paned Gothic stained-glass transom; of particular note is the single limestone slab on each side of the door. Gable roof, returned cornices and plain frieze under the eaves.

L.A.C.A.C. recommends designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including limestone walls, windows, front door, door openings, existing gable roof line and unique transom window.

Historic data:

Our Ontario Pioneer Preachers: James Black Alexander Anderson  
James Kilgour Edmund Sheppard  
Dugald Sinclair Charles J. Lister

founders of the new Communion wherein all Christians might scripturally unite in Christ - 1830-1880. This religious effort began in 1830 in "Old Everton" in the "Queen's Bush", as Wellington County and surrounding area was first named. Miss Ada Currie was given credit for starting the recorded history of the church as a memorial to "our religious forebears".

Quotes are from: Old Everton and the Pioneer Movement amongst the Disciples of Christ in Eramosa Township, Upper Canada from 1830, by Reuben Butchart, former editor, Christian Messenger and Canadian Disciple in 1941.

Everton is mentioned in a political sense during the Battle of Montgomery's Tavern near Toronto in December 7, 1837 when the oppression at the time drove some dissidents to hide in David Oliphant's home; (Mr. Oliphant is referred to: "a Radical who lived in Eramosa Township.....the Oliphant home, opposite Everton Church, being the shelter for a night of two escaping men, Samuel Lount and Edward Kennedy.") Mr. Oliphant was a Scotch Baptist in the years before 1825 along with Alex. Stewart, Thomas Stephens and Donald McLean preached advanced views. This is the situation as Elder James Black found it on his arrival in Everton in 1825. Hence in 1831 the name "Baptist" was replaced with "Disciple of Christ" or "Christian".

James Black had come to Nassagaweya and then to East Eramosa from Aldborough Township in Elgin County. He married Miss Lois Humphrey of Chippewa in 1828. They made their permanent home in Eramosa Township on West Half Lot 7, Concession VII in 1830 and "erected the first meeting house put up by the Disciples in Western Ontario."

The West Eramosa Church site was chosen at East Half Lot 13, Concession I on the farm of Joseph Parkinson - he being a first settler in the township arriving here in 1824. His son Lazarus Parkinson was a leader in the East Church at Everton and was asked to set up a new congregation. His family gave enough land for a meeting house and burying place in 1842. The meeting house was of log, later covered with boarding. Lazarus Parkinson, presiding elder, was assisted by Robert Royce from the 6th Line. To-day the well-kept cemetery is still on Highway #24 in the hamlet of Eramosa; the stone commemorative gateway was erected in the 1940's by the Parkinson family.

With Elder James Kilgour the West Church ceased activity in 1876 with 116 names on its roll. The congregation moved to Guelph, but Lazarus Parkinson transferred his service to the Stone Church, Everton.

Due to the state of the roads it was difficult for the people living any distance from East or West Eramosa Churches to assemble, hence a small church was erected on the farm of George Royce on West Half Lot 14, Concession VI in 1847. Elders appointed were Alex. Anderson and James Kilgour, Elder Black officiating. Robert Royce continued as church elder attending West Eramosa Church. The Eramosa Centre Church became the largest church in the township.

In 1861 Centre and East Church united and built the Everton Stone Church.

The Disciples of Christ churches were all first built of log and lit by candles. A candle box from Centre Church was owned by Robert Royce's grand-daughter, Mrs. Norman Reilly, R.R. Grand Valley. The old communion table was in the farm house cellar in 1941 on West Half Lot 14, Concession VI. It is described as: "panelled in squares, made of well-preserved pine, about seven feet in length, two and a half feet wide and two and a half feet high."

Describing the church building in 1941:

"The old dismounting stand disappeared after the buggies were exchanged for cars. The bench in the vestibule was where Eliza could sit perhaps nursing a child while her husband cared for the horses in the cool sheds. Upon entering the church proper a church member was confronted with a large stove. The seating still runs in four rows divided by parallel aisles. Gone is the reading desk but the wooden wall screen back of the pulpit, which with its mouldings, panneling and cornice, topped by fretted ornament, adds a classic touch. Over the wood screen was blazed the fitting text for a scripture-loving people:

'Let him that hath My Word speak it faithfully.' "

Baptismal services were conducted "amidst the caressing natural beauty by the rocky green-clad stream below the hill. "

Although musical instruments were frowned on as sinful the entire congregation would be given a note from a tuning fork by "an undoubted leader such as Norris Black, son of Elder James Black. " The entire congregation could sing four-part harmony. (Norris Black operated an organ factory in Rockwood before he began the manufacture of artificial limbs that made him part founder of a "great firm still in existence in this line. ") The early churches used a small book published and printed by A. Campbell, Bethany, Virginia entitled: Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs - 26th stereotyped edition, 1850, sold by Lesslie Brothers, Toronto. Later came the "Hymn and Tune Book " mentioned as still in use in 1941.

Besides Norris Black, other leaders in music were Robert Morton, James Black ( a grandson of Elder Black ) Minnie Tovell, Mrs. Grace Ann Abbot. An organ was acquired on January 1, 1899 and a choir was then formed. The first organist was Mrs. John Mackenzie who with Nettie Abbot ( Mrs. Jack Stewart ) share the record as longest serving organists at the church.

The Everton Stone Church continued as Disciples of Christ Church until the late 1970's. It is presently known as the Everton Community Church.

3) EDEN MILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 1887  
South-west Part Lot 1, Concession II, Eramosa Township.

The original church was situated across the road from the present building and was of roughcast construction.

Land for the church was donated by Adam Argo in 1862 or James Argo in 1866. ( further research is to be done on this )

Builder of the church was Robert Lamb. On a visit to his original home in Harwick, Scotland in 1883, local folk believe he found a piece of limestone at the site of the ruined church named Kirk Alloway where the poet Robert Burns worshipped. That piece of limestone may be found imbedded in granite to the right-hand side of the front entrance.

The church was first opened for public worship in 1887.

Samuel Geddes left a generous bequest making possible the purchase and installation of the beautiful stained glass windows in 1907.

In 1920 a lighting system was installed and a new organ was purchased in 1921. Grover Gallagher made the fine baptismal font. About the same time, 1948, the pulpit platform and choir loft were altered.

Gordon Couling, a Guelph artist, was asked to assist in painting and decorating the interior in 1950. The original mural behind the pulpit, the work of Mr. Couling, is similar in theme to Holman Hunt's " Light of the World ". To obtain the right shade of green for the bottom of the mural, an assistant was sent out to gather some grass which gave the desired shade for the artist.

Adjacent to the church is the cemetery.

An early photograph in the church vestry shows a larger more elaborate belfry than the present one.

L.A.C.A.C. recommends designation and preservation of the exterior of the limestone building including stone walls, windows, door openings, front door, existing roofline and belfry.

4) EDEN MILLS GENERAL STORE - 1871  
Lot 1 in the Village of Eden Mills, Eramosa Township.

Earliest known owner of the land which the store is built on was Adam Lind Argo. Local opinion has the first general store and post office owned and operated by Adam Argo. Mr. Argo was the first postmaster in 1851. This building seems to be east of the present building and in front of the stone cottage presently owned by Miss Mary Rogers, the ruins of the store are still evident.

The building recommended for designation is a three storey limestone structure built in 1871 by Samuel Meadows who went bankrupt as a result. The wholesale company, Jackson & Hallet, suppliers of Mr. Meadows, took over the building at that time.

The telegraph in the store was part of a line running from Guelph to Arkell to Eden mills to Rockwood and ending in Everton.

The original use of the building consisted of: first floor as the post office and general store; second floor as the owners' residence; third floor as storage with a conveyance on the exterior of the building to transport supplies down as needed.

Present uses are as follows: first floor as general store; second floor as tea room and gift shoppe; third floor as owners' residence.

Although the original wooden veranda has been replaced with a concrete slab the front windows have been retained and are architecturally in keeping with the front facade.

Present owners are [REDACTED]

L.A.C.A.C. recommends designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including the limestone walls, stone guttering, close eaves, 12 paned upper and lower sashed windows, existing doors and original store-front with outer and inner windows.

5) PARKINSON HOMESTEAD - 1850's  
West half Lot 12, Concession I, Eramosa Township.

This two storey limestone house was built by Joseph Parkinson. The roof is of low pitch hip design with close eaves. There are three front openings. Regency in design with two one-storey wings on each side of the building, there does not appear to be another home like this one in Ontario.

The house is in a good state of repair, the tape pointing on the exterior having been renewed within the last few years. The back porch replaces the original open veranda to save on heat. The sashes on the double hung 12 paned windows are original.

The Patent on the property was granted in 1824 when this part of the township was made available to settlers. Joseph Jr. took over the property on the death of his father in 1851. It is one of the few remaining homesteads still in the original family name since the issue of the first land grant.

L.A.C.A.C. recommends designation and preservation of the exterior of the building including the limestone walls, windows, doors, door openings, existing hip roof line and unique stone wings.