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Development Services

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To: Ontario Heritage Trust
[REDACTED]

From: Michael Michaud, Manager of Planning

Date: January 27, 2022

RE: Intention to Designate – 1521 Danforth Road, Ward of Hillier



This letter is to inform you of the intention to designate the property located at 1521 Danforth Road, in the Ward of Hillier, in the County of Prince Edward. Please see the attached Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for the property, which includes a description of the property, statement explaining the cultural heritage value of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property.

No later than the **26th day of February, 2022** by registered mail or deliver to the Manager of Planning, a Notice of Objection to the proposed designation(s), together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and relevant facts. When a Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the County of Prince Edward will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

p.p.

Michael Michaud, MCIP RPP
Manager of Planning
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
MM/de
Encl

DRAFT for PEHAC meeting, Oct 21, 2021

Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee
Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for Christ Church Parsonage, c. 1856–63
1521 Danforth Road
Concession 2, Part Lot 16, RP47R8062 Part 1
Ward 7, Hillier



Christ Church Parsonage in original location
(Archival photographs in collection of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] dates unknown)



Aerial view: Subject property in foreground
(with barn), Parsonage in original location,
Cemetery and Church in background



Parsonage in its new location (Photograph
[REDACTED], 2021)



View from Christ Church Cemetery to the Parsonage
in its new location (and vice versa) maintains a visual
connection (Photograph Liz Driver, 2021)

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The property is on the south side of Danforth Road, east of Closson Road. The property is part of the original 200-acre Lot 16 granted by the Crown in 1828 to King's College (later the University of Toronto), whose president was Anglican churchman John Strachan, who involved himself in the development of Anglican churches in Hillier and other local townships, and knew William Macaulay of St Mary Magdalene, Hallowell. Over time, Lot 16 was sub-divided into various smaller part lots.

The property was originally part of a farm that straddled Danforth Road, with the farmhouse on the north side of the road and the barn and agricultural land on the south side (see 1878 Belden Atlas). The property was later severed from the farmhouse portion at north, and retains the barn and another small outbuilding.

In 2015, property owner [REDACTED] moved the Christ Church Parsonage from its original location at the northeast corner of Danforth and Closson to the property, to provide housing for his family. At the time, the Parsonage was at risk of demolition because it was in the way of farming operations.

The Parsonage was built as the home for the priest of Hillier's Christ Church (Anglican), in the period 1856 (land purchased from Paul Clapp) to 1863 ("Parsonage" identified on the Tremaine Map). The Parsonage's original corner lot was a short distance from Christ Church and Cemetery, on the west side of Closson Road.

The Parsonage is a 1½-storey frame building with a centre hall plan and a 10-foot ceiling on the first floor, unusually high for a 1½-storey house. The façade has a front door flanked by a window on each side. The steeply pitched gable above the front door appears to be an early addition to the original structure (evidenced by different floor boards in the gable; original rafters in the attic and the subsequent framing material for the gable; and the cut top plate).

Well before the house was relocated, previous owners had removed the Gothic (pointed arch) window in the added gable, the front door with side lights and transom, and the two flanking ground floor windows, all of which are captured in various archival photographs (HASPE file and collection of [REDACTED]). The archival photographs would allow the future reconstruction of these elements.

The two, tall-and-wide window openings that punctuated the façade were proportionate with the first floor's high ceiling (their structural framing remains in place behind new interior plasterboard). The windows' proportion evokes the Regency style, and they had a unique design: a pair of casements below a fixed transom window, with the transom bar forming a Christian cross; the muntin bars divide the glass in an unusual, decorative pattern of narrow panes bordering the outer vertical edges. The front door's original side lights and transom have an unusual triple-barred "chinoiserie" lattice pattern.

The wide main hall and a wide door opening to each of the two principal rooms are proportionate with the first floor's high ceiling. It is reasonable to assume that the first floor was designed to accommodate gatherings of people for a variety of church purposes. The house retains the original staircase and floorboards.

Various historic architectural elements salvaged from other sites have been integrated into the building: first floor tin ceiling (from the house at 1756 Danforth Road); double glass doors (Toronto Hunt Club) and transom light for each of the principal first floor rooms; front door case and the Gothic window with coloured glass (both from demolished buildings on Pickering Airport lands); semi-circular window on the south face.

The property is on a slight rise above the Parsonage's original location and the Christ Church Cemetery beyond. [REDACTED] positioned the Parsonage on the property so that its original location and the Cemetery are visible from the second floor Gothic window. The viewscape is created by the height of the property and the approximate alignment of the Parsonage, its original corner lot, and the Cemetery. Similarly, the Parsonage and its original location are visible from the Cemetery.

Christ Church Cemetery is still in active use for burials; however, no church building remains in the Cemetery: Christ Church, constructed c. 1846, about a decade before the Parsonage, burned down in 1944; it was rebuilt in 1947, closed its doors in 1969, was deconsecrated in 2002, and subsequently purchased and moved by Closson Chase Winery to its property at Closson and Chase roads in 2006.

2. STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Design or Physical Value

The Parsonage has design value as a representative example of mid-19th century domestic architecture. Although later modifications of the front façade have disguised some of the original design intent, the Parsonage had unique and unusual features related to its social role within Anglican church life, some of which survive, specifically the high first floor ceiling, wide first floor hall and wide doorways into the principal first floor rooms, and the surviving structural framing for the unique windows that used to flank the front door.

Historical or Associative Value

The Parsonage was built as the home for the priest of Christ Church and as a social gathering place for the church community's activities. It has a direct association with Christ Church and Cemetery and yields information that contributes to an understanding of Hillier's Anglican community.

Contextual Value

In its new location (but still on the 1828 Crown grant of Lot 16 to King's College), the Parsonage remains visually and historically linked to its original location and the Christ Church Cemetery. As a result, the Parsonage continues to maintain and support the

character of the area. On a rise in the landscape, the Parsonage is a landmark and a reminder of the roots of Hillier's Anglican community.

3. DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

- Size and form
- Landmark location and orientation toward the Parsonage's original location and Christ Church Cemetery
- Gable roofline and front gable
- Arrangement of windows and door on the front façade
- Structural framing for the windows flanking the front door and for the pointed arch window in the front gable
- 10-foot first floor ceiling
- Wide front hall and wide door openings to first floor principal rooms
- Original staircase and floorboards

References:

Heritage Architectural Survey of Prince Edward (HASPE files), County of Prince Edward Public Library and Archives.

"An History of the Anglican church at Christ Church, Hillier, compiled by Michael Korn, member of St. Andrew's Church, Wellington, August 2007 (google search, accessed September 19, 2021, <https://standrewswellington.ca>).

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Hastings and Prince Edward, Ont., Toronto: H. Belden and Co., 1878.

Record of Crown land grant for Lot 16, County of Prince Edward Public Library & Archives.

Tremaine's Map of the County of Prince Edward, Upper Canada, 1863.

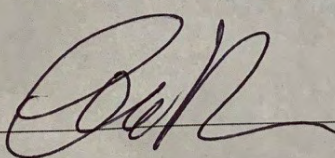
Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee

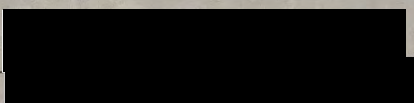
Home owner "Heritage Designation" acceptance form

I have received and reviewed the details for "Heritage Designation" of my property and accept the findings.

Designation Name: CHRIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

Address: 1521 DANFORTH ROAD

Home owner signature: 

Home owner name (printed) 

Date: OCTOBER 11, 2021