

## REPORT

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: MARCH 8, 2021

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**FROM:** Planning Services Department

**DATE:** February 23, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Notice of intention to designate - Featherstone Parkette at 307 Ironside Drive

**LOCATION:** 307 Ironside Drive

**WARD:** 7

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#### RECOMMENDATION:

That notice be issued under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* of the intention to designate the Featherstone Parkette at 307 Ironside Drive.

#### KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The town-owned Featherstone Parkette at 307 Ironside Drive contains a shade structure made from the remnants of the former Featherstone barn.
- Heritage planning staff have evaluated the property and consider these remnants worthy of conservation and heritage designation.
- It is recommended that the property be designated under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and that a notice of intention to designate be issued by Council.

#### BACKGROUND:

The property at 307 Ironside Drive is located on the north side of Ironside Drive, east of George Savage Avenue and north of North Park Boulevard in north Oakville. A Location Map is attached as Appendix A. Photos of Featherstone Parkette are attached as Appendix B.

In 2012, the owners of 145 Burnhamthorpe Road West submitted a notice of intention to demolish for the barn on the property, formerly a farm owned by the Featherstone family. A heritage impact assessment was completed by ERA Architects Inc. and submitted with the application. The document recommended that

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the barn be dismantled and that materials be salvaged from the building to be used in a new structure in a nearby park.

Council approved the removal of the property at 145 Burnhamthorpe Road West from the Oakville Heritage Register subject to the property owner entering into a heritage easement agreement with the town to ensure that stone and wood material from the barn was salvaged, stored and reused in a new structure within a town-owned park. Securities were also taken to ensure the work was completed properly.

In 2013, the Featherstone barn was dismantled, and stone from the foundation and wood beams and cladding were salvaged and stored. As the lands to the south of the Featherstone farm on Burnhamthorpe Road were planned for development, the subject park was chosen as an appropriate site for the new structure to be built using the salvaged materials. The park, named Featherstone Parkette in commemoration of the farm, is approximately 1450 metres from the original farm.

In 2020, the shade structure was completed using the salvaged materials. The stone from the foundation of the barn was used in the construction of the stone wall on the north end of the structure. The vertical barn board cladding on the barn was restored and installed on the roof of the shade structure. A historical plaque was installed and describes the history of the Featherstone barn and the cultural heritage significance of the shade structure and its salvaged materials.

Staff are now recommending that the property be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as an individually designated property in order to conserve the remnants of the Featherstone barn, which are considered to be of cultural heritage value.

#### **COMMENT/OPTIONS:**

The Featherstone Parkette is considered to have cultural heritage value for the barn board cladding and lakestone materials salvaged from the former Featherstone barn.

These salvaged materials are considered to have physical value because they are remnants of a representative example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century bank barn. Originally located on the Featherstone family farm on the southern half of Lot 17, Concession 2 NDS, the barn was likely built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century under John and Marion Featherstone's ownership. The gable-roofed barn had a 3 bay by 3 bay plan with two circular hoists in the centre bay to provide a mechanism for lifting hay to the upper level. The framing was of sawn lumber, combined with hand-hewn timbers salvaged from earlier barns. The foundation walls were constructed of local lakestone and the walls were clad in painted vertical barn board. Typical of bank

barns, the upper level contained an open space for straw and hay storage and a granary, and the lower level contained stables and pens for the livestock.

The salvaged materials are also considered to have historical and associative value because they are directly associated with the Featherstone family, a well-known farming family in Trafalgar Township. The Featherstones farmed the land on Lot 17 from 1844 until the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition to farming the land, they set up a saw mill and cut and sold lumber on the property. William Featherstone, who owned the farm from 1899 to 1934, served as Mayor of Oakville, local councillor and as Worshipful Master of the Oakville Masonic Lodge.

These physical and historical associations are considered to be significant enough to merit designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It is therefore recommended that Council issue a notice of intention to designate the property under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

If the property is to be designated, the intention is to only include the salvaged stone and wood elements in the heritage attributes of the designation by-law, and not the whole of the shade structure. Staff will continue to work with Parks and Open Space staff on the designation of the property.

A separate staff report on this matter was presented to the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee on February 16, 2021. The Committee supported staff's recommendation to issue a notice of intention to designate.

## **CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **(A) PUBLIC**

If notice is to be issued for the designation of the property, notice will be given in accordance with section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### **(B) FINANCIAL**

None

### **(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

The Legal Department and Parks & Open Space will be consulted on the designation as necessary.

### **(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS**

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- enhance our cultural environment
- be the most livable town in Canada

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**(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY**

A Climate Emergency was declared by Council in June 2019 for the purposes of strengthening the Oakville community commitment in reducing carbon footprints. The salvage and reuse of historic materials in a new structure contributes to the town's initiatives to reduce carbon footprints.

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – Location Map

Appendix B – Photos of Featherstone Parkette

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