

Sideroad) and the township line with Caledon Township (now Airport Road), Finnerty operated an inn and Killeen gradually developed a tavern, store and smithy¹. These enterprises became the seed for the postal hamlet of Sleswick. The directory of 1873 notes approximately 60 inhabitants in Sleswick including two innkeepers, Michael Finnerty as noted above and Richard Evans, who also was postmaster.



18030 Centreville Creek Road

As elsewhere in early Ontario, the houses of the settlers in this area were initially rough log shanties followed, as soon as the tasks of land clearing and farm establishment would permit, by more substantial three bay log houses with notched corners. However, unlike many other parts of the province, these log houses often remained their main dwellings until well into the 20th century.

This area, with its steep hills and river valleys was picturesque but difficult to farm and much of it remained bush. S.S. #11 was known as the Dingle School for its wild, wooded valley setting (W ½ Lot 33, Con. 2). Originally constructed in log, it was replaced by a brick school building in 1872², but was always reached by nothing more than a cart track through the forest.

In this wooded and riverine environment hunting and fishing were important supplements to subsistence agriculture. Many settlers had small orchards, such as John Patterson (W ½ Lot 36, Con. 3) who, in the Agricultural Census of 1861, is listed with 5 acres in orchard/garden. Lumbering, both locally and with crews elsewhere, was a source of further income.

There were strong contingents of both Roman Catholic and Protestants among the Irish settlers, occasionally leading to brawling at the inns of the local villages of Sleswick, Lockton (southeast of Candidate area) and Centreville (south of Candidate area). The first Catholic Church was built at Lockton in 1834³.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

The survey of Albion Township was completed by William Chewett in 1819 and was one of the first to be undertaken using the double-front system. In this system the common unit of concession is the half-lot of 100 acres with each half of the 200 acre lot fronting on a different concession line road. These half lots are almost square. Concessions run essentially north-south. At every five lots there was an allowance for a side road.

¹ Story of Albion

² Ibid

³ Plaque erected at the current Church of St. John the Evangelist

The other key determinant was the Escarpment and moraine topography, often dictating the actual siting of homes and barns within the lots. The earliest permanent homes appear to have typically been set quite close to the road.

3. Elements

Circulation Networks

The grid of concession roads and sideroads after every fifth lot is typical, but there are some important anomalies. The Townline junction to the north is at a significant angle relative to the concession lines so that, for example, in Concession 3 the northmost lot is an irregularly shaped (Gore) portion of Lot 37.

Both Coolihans' and Finnerty Sideroads have significant bends, twists and offsets dictated by the topography. Innis Lake Road was never more than a track beyond Lot 32 due to the roughness of the terrain between there and Lot 35. The Glen Haffy Road, actually a continuation of Innis Lake Road north of Coolihans Sideroad is steep and little more than a track. Both these sections, densely wooded, form a part of the Bruce Trail. The Bruce Trail runs generally east-west through these lands, with the north-south oriented Glen Haffy Side Trail coming close to the ruin of the Dingle School as it utilizes, in part, the unopened road allowance that extends between Innis Lake Road and Glen Haffy Road.

Boundary Demarcations

The boundary of the Candidate area is constituted by roads and property lines.

The predominant property boundary and field delineation fencing in the area is of cedar, which grows abundantly. The typical extant fence type is cedar double post and split rail assisted with wire. There are also cedar split rail fences without wire, both snake rail and straight, as well as more relatively recent wire fencing with cedar posts. In the north end several horse farms have more contemporary board rail fences.



Cedar fence along Centreville Creek Road

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Given the challenges of the terrain for farming, much of the Candidate CHL area is still characterized by lowland swamp forest. The area's rolling topography and gullies associated with the creek tributaries provided inspiration to the early Irish settlers for the naming of the

Dingle, which means “a wooded or deep gulch which was shadowed from the sun”. Dense cedar forests still line much of the roads, perpetuating this description. In a few locations heritage trees, planted along the road frontages of farm properties or as field delineations, still remain.

Much of the land in the central portion of the Candidate CHL area is under the jurisdiction of the TRCA as part of the Glen Haffy Conservation Area, with TRCA trout-rearing facility and fishing ponds located along the cold waters of Coffey Creek. Located at the meeting point of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment, the park is characterized by rocky outcroppings, and hills and valleys comprised predominantly of cedar swamps, pine plantations and deciduous forest. The Conservation Area continues the tradition of sport fishing in the area through its fly fishing club and public fishing programs.

Buildings, Structures and Objects

*Note * denotes properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.*

Most of the settlers’ first permanent houses were of log (1 ½ storey, 3 bay, medium pitched gable), but unlike many other parts of the township many of these log structures were retained as residences well into the 20th century. However, within the Candidate CHL area there are only two buildings remaining which appear to be log, though now clad in other materials

In general it is the juxtaposition of the farmsteads noted below with the adjacent wild lands and open spaces which give this area its special character.

19353 Glen Haffy Road (W ½ Lot 37, Con. 2)

Secluded farm complex on the Humber River with frame house and large livestock and hay barn with goose pens on pond formed off the river. The house appears to date c.1865 and was constructed by the Lynas family.

19560 Glen Haffy Rd. (E ½ Lot 38, Con. 1)

Known as ‘Briardale’ this excellent farm complex is comprised of a 1 ½ storey frame house of three bays with centre gable and full verandah across the front,



View of 19353 Glen Haffy Road



19560 Glen Haffy Road

extensive barns of various eras including a large livestock/hay barn raised on stone foundation.

The house is built on a terraced rise reached by a long lane with windrow of mature trees. A cedar rail fence extends across the front of the property. The Escarpment rises up in the background. The house would appear to date c.1875.

***19179 Centreville Creek Road
(W ½ Lot 36, Con. 3)**

Historically known as Balsam Villa, this multi-gabled brick farmhouse has polychromatic (red brick with buff) accents at the quoins, window surrounds and string courses etc. It was built by James Patterson in 1887. (Remarkably all the original construction invoices/receipts have been preserved.).

James was the son of John Patterson who had emigrated from Ireland and purchased the property in 1851. The original family house was a two storey log dwelling built by John. The Pattersons played an important role in Albion Township community life, both religious and civic, and remained on the property until 1968. The property includes extensive secondary accommodations and outbuildings. It has been operated as a group home for young schizophrenics since 1968, and is now known as Peace Ranch.



19179 Centreville Creek Road

**19350 Centreville Creek Road
(E ½ Lot 37, Con. 2)**

Board and batten frame three bay 1 ½ storey house with centre gable extending through 'broken' eave. The screened verandah across the front is segmentally arched between the chamfered columns. The building appears to date from the turn of the 20th century. The property was in the McDonald family for much of the 19th century.



19350 Centreville Creek Rd

**19126 Centreville Creek Road
(E ½ Lot 36, Con. 2)**

Though this three bay medium pitched side gabled 1 ½ storey house may have new siding and windows etc., its form, scale and remaining brick end chimneys suggest it may be an original log house. It also retains extensive property including a river valley behind the house. The house appears to have been built by John McKedles c.1860.



19126 Centreville Creek Road

**18030 Centreville Creek Road
(E ½ Lot 31, Con. 2)**

This recently restored, small farmhouse, is constructed of rough-cast lathe and plaster over a square timber frame. The 1 ½ storey, three bay under medium gable roof form is typical of the pre mid 19th century homes of the area. The end chimneys, returned cornice and moulded verge are also typical classically-derived details of this period.



18030 Centreville Creek Road

The associated hay/livestock barn remains in situ and the field patterns remain extending to the hillside. Cedar fencing bounds the property and divides the yards from the fields. On both the Tremaine (1859) and County Atlas maps (1877) it is shown in the ownership of George Irwin.

**17889 Innis Lake Road
(W ½ Lot 30, Con. 2)**

This property belonged to one of the earliest settlers in the area, James Killeen who, as noted earlier, helped to establish the hamlet of Sleswick. It is a beautiful well treed site with the house and farm buildings set well back from the road and two tributary branches of the Humber River running through the property. The



17889 Innis Lake Road

house is a full two-storey three bay frame dwelling with medium gable roof and end chimneys, and reflects the relative prosperity and long establishment of the family by c.1860. It has a kitchen side addition.

Settlement Clusters

The area under discussion was historically associated with two hamlets, which now only survive as map place names, just at the periphery of the current study boundaries. Sleswick was located at the intersection of what is now the Finnerty Sideroad and Airport Road and was developed by early (within the Candidate CHL area) settlers Michael Finnerty and James Killeen and would have been the service centre and post office for the area.

Lockton, associated with the Locke and Horan families, was developed southeast of the Candidate CHL area at Patterson Sideroad and Gore Road. There is little trace of what was once apparently a bustling and often rollicking village. Including Centreville to the south, the three villages served the Irish community, both Catholic and Protestant, with flare-ups of ancient enmities not uncommon.

Archaeological Sites

Though no archaeological survey has been undertaken within the Candidate CHL, a survey conducted along the main branch of the Humber River to the east and along a section of Centreville Creek revealed an abundance of First Nations' related sites. The Candidate area is essentially an extension of this environment of tributary stream valleys and wooded uplands and clearly has high potential for sites of First Nations' occupation.

3. Site Context

This area is characterized by the intersection of the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine, creating a series of ridges and hills running both north/south and east/west the latter containing the source of a number of the tributary streams of the Humber River. Early settlement was typically in plateau areas and along the river valleys. The difficult terrain, particularly in the northwest meant that some areas were never developed, or, if developed at all, were abandoned early for farming purposes. Thus Innis Lake Road never was taken through to Coolihans' Sideroad and yet is ideal as a section of the Bruce Trail. Generally, throughout the area, despite some severances, the prevailing sense is of isolated farms in a heavily wooded setting. Views to the northeast from the crest of Coolihans Sideroad are particularly dramatic.



View along Coolihans Side Road

9.3 EVALUATION

To be identified as a CHL an area must clearly embody both heritage significance and integrity.

Significance

Significance Criteria

While any landscape upon which humankind has left its imprint is a cultural landscape, only those cultural landscapes that have a deep connection with the history of the jurisdiction can be identified as cultural heritage landscapes. To be considered significant from a heritage perspective it must be demonstrated through the Inventory Report that the Candidate CHL meets one or more of the following criteria:

- A. Is associated with events that made significant contributions to the broad patterns of area history, i.e., strong association with central themes.*
- B. Is closely associated with the lives of individuals and/or families who are considered significant to the history of the area.*
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular settlement pattern or lifeway whether derived from ethnic background, imposed by the landscape, was the practice of a specific historic period or a combination of the above.*
- D. Manifests a particularly close and harmonious long-standing relationship between the natural and domestic landscape.*
- E. Has yielded or is likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.*
- F. Is strongly associated with the cultural and/or spiritual traditions of First Nations or any other ethnic and/or religious group.*

Integrity

A CHL must be able to be justified as a distinct area of contiguous heritage integrity. Its key individual elements, which constitute the cultural heritage landscape and the way in which their interweaving makes a unique 'place,' must still clearly reflect the historic period and/or organic evolution from which the heritage significance derives.

Conclusions

The Irish Settlement of Northwest Albion well exemplifies *Criteria A, C and D*. The early date of settlement (c.1825) qualifies it under that main theme while its long history of Irish-originated occupation of the area is representative of Irish influence throughout northwest Albion Township and testament to their ability to forge a sense of permanent community out of necessarily isolated farmsteads. The wildness of this section of Albion Township could never be fully tamed and the settlers simply adapted to that reality.

9.4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This picturesque but rugged area where the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine meet was settled c.1825 by Irish immigrants of both Protestant and Catholic backgrounds. Farmsteads were isolated due to the topography and some land was never built-on or was soon abandoned. This element of wildness has remained a characteristic of the area, perhaps even enhanced now by natural regeneration, TRCA ownership of much of its core and the Bruce Trail extending through it along the unopened road allowance for Innis Lake Road and its continuation north of Coolihans Sideroad as Glen Haffy Road.

Still, despite the isolation, the settlers forged a sense of community. A school was established along the 1st Line (Innis Lake Road) by the 1830s. Though this section of road never evolved beyond a cart track, the original log building was replaced with a brick structure in 1872 and continued in use well into the 20th century. Situated deep in a wooded valley, it became known as the Dingle School. Its



19126 Centreville Road

remains are a cultural feature along a side trail of the current Bruce Trail. James Killeen, one of the first settlers in the southwest corner of the Candidate area, is credited, along with his neighbour Michael Finnerty, with the establishment of the hamlet of Sleswick at what is now the corner of Finnerty Sideroad and Airport Road. No longer extant, it was the service centre and post office for the immediate area.

Log was the common construction material for the first permanent houses in this area, which often took the form of a simple three bay gable roofed storey and a half dwelling. There are two such properties along Centreville Road (18030; 19126), though now covered in siding and stucco respectively. The extent of swamp cedar in the area made it the material of choice for fencing, and the road side and field boundaries are still defined in this manner.

While much of the surrounding area shares similar qualities including Irish heritage, it is particularly within the Candidate area that the integration and juxtaposition of wild (or at least regenerated) lands and traditional heritage farmsteads is best represented with the minimal intrusion of new development.

Character-defining elements:

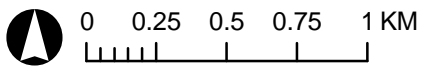
- IA-1 19560 Glen Haffy Road (E ½ Lot 38, Con. 1)
- IA-2 19353 Glen Haffy Road (W ½ Lot 37, Con. 2)
- IA-3 19350 Centreville Creek Road (E ½ Lot 37, Con. 2)
- IA-4 *19179 Centreville Creek Road (W ½ Lot 36, Con. 3)
- IA-5 19126 Centreville Creek Road (E ½ Lot 36, Con. 2)
- IA-6 Glen Haffy Road component of overall Road Network
- IA-7 The view northeast from Coolihans Sideroad
- IA-8 Coolihans Sideroad component of overall Road Network
- IA-9 The pattern of field and woodland
- IA-10 The trout ponds of the Glen Haffy Conservation Area
- IA-11 The Glen Haffy Side Trail to the Bruce Trail through Innis Lake Road and Glen Haffy Road
- IA-12 Centreville Creek Road component of overall Road Network
- IA-13 18030 Centreville Creek Road (E ½ Lot 31, Con. 2)
- IA-14 Finnerty Sideroad component of overall Road Network
- IA-15 Innis Lake Road component of overall Road Network
- IA-16 17889 Innis Lake Road (W ½ Lot 30, Con. 2)
- IA-17 The ruins of the Dingle School (W1/2 of Lot 33, Con. 2)

It is thus recommended that this candidate CHL referred to as the Irish Settlement of Northwest Albion be identified as a CHL.

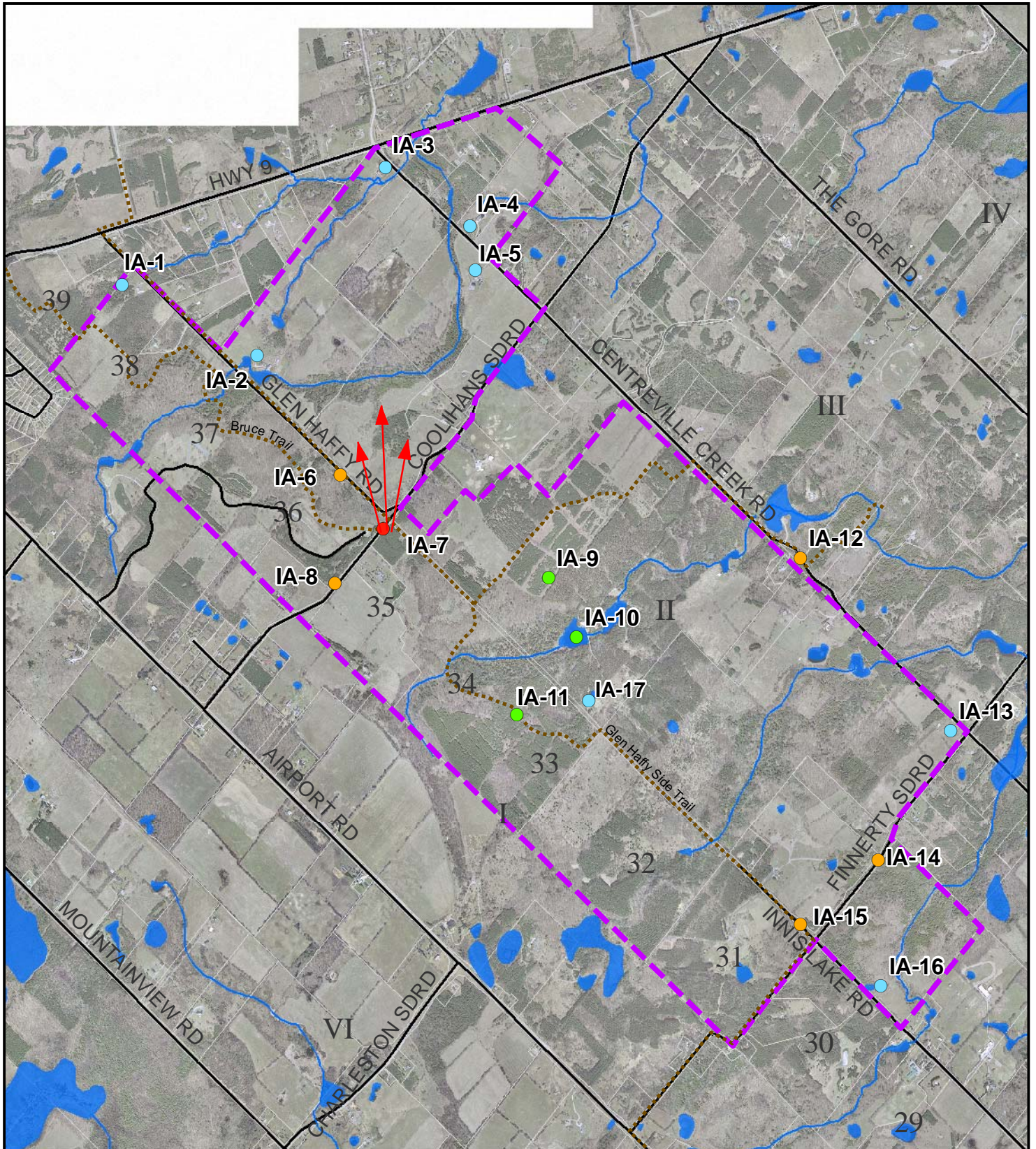
9.5 BOUNDARIES

The boundary of this Irish Settlement of Northwest Albion CHL may be most simply described thus: between Lot 31 and Lot 37 from the east half of Con. 1 through Con. 2 but extending to include Lot 38 in Con. 1, Lot 30 in Con. 2 and the west half of Con. 3 in Lot 37. A portion of Lot 35, Con. 2 has been excluded from the CHL.

Refer to **Figure 11 Irish Settlement of Northwest Albion** detailed delineation of boundaries.



Irish Settlement of Northwest Albion Figure 11



Character Defining Elements

- Built
- Landscape
- Streetscape
- Views

CHL Boundary

- Lakes / Ponds
- Rivers / Streams
- Road

Property Boundary (2006)

- - - Trail
- Viewshed